Inspiring Speeches of
Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Puratchithalaivi Amma

Vol-III

Introduction

"People are with me
And I'm with the people"

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Puratchithalaivi Amma

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi Amma is ceaselessly striving for the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu.

The inspiring speeches of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu delivered on various occasions (05.06.2013 to 21.2.2014) have been published as a book, "Inspiring Speeches of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchithalaivi Amma" Vol.-III.

This book of most valuable importance will inspire the readers.

I commend the services of Thiru.Mahesan Kasirajan, IAS, Director of Information and Public Relations Department and his team for their good work.

M. Rajaram, IAS
Secretary to Government
Tamil Development & Information Dept.

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INSPIRING SPEECHES OF HON'BLE
CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU
PURATCHITHALAIVI AMMA
(VOLUME - III)

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SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER'S CONFERENCE ON INTERNAL SECURITY AT NEW DELHI ON 5.6.2013

CHIEF MINISTER BEMOANS DRASTIC FALL IN CENTRAL FUNDS FOR MODERNISING POLICE

"Hon'ble Prime Minister,

Hon'ble Home Minister,

Hon'ble Chief Ministers of other States,

and other dignitaries,

We are all gathered here today for the Annual Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security. The first and most vital function of the State is

the maintenance of public order and peace in Society and ensuring the protection of its citizens. The trajectory of development and growth is inextricably intertwined with the internal security situation in the Country. Unless there is peace and tranquillity, we cannot have social and economic growth. This is a universal truth of which we are all aware. However, it is a matter of great disappointment and regret that in spite of the vital importance of the subject, the Conference on Internal Security is treated by the Government of India as a mere ritual. It is routinely convened each year to discuss an almost unchanging Agenda that fails to keep up with the emerging situation and makes no attempt at achieving a real breakthrough on pressing issues of concern.

All the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the States are keenly aware of the need for modernization of the Police Force, strengthening Coastal and Border Security, strengthening the Intelligence machinery and developing Police training infrastructure. Year after year, Chief Minister after Chief Minister vociferously exhorts the Government of India to significantly step up the allocation of funds for the modernization of the State Police Forces. However,

funding from the Government of India remains extremely low and inadequate and even shrinks from year to year. Growing crimes and criminality, terrorism and other threats to the integrity of the Nation, are most effectively met by utilizing modern technology which in turn requires massive increases in funding. While States like Tamil Nadu are investing in this area, the Government of India can no longer shy away from its responsibility and must significantly enhance funding.

The maintenance of Internal Security in the country is an exercise that requires functional co-operation and understanding between the Central Government and the State Governments and presupposes a relationship based on equality - the States are equal partners with the Centre in protecting the Nation from internal strife. However, the Government of India is increasingly taking unilateral steps and creating top down structures and parallel authorities that encroach upon the constitutional domain of the State Governments. This is an ill-informed and counter-productive approach best illustrated by the ham-handed manner in which the National Counter Terrorism Centre has been sought to be established, an issue to which I shall return later in my speech.

Let me now dwell upon the major issues concerning Internal Security as detailed in the Agenda. So far as the maintenance of law and order is concerned, I am proud to inform this august gathering that Tamil Nadu has largely been free of communal, left wing extremist, and religious fundamentalist violence. This is largely because I have provided a free hand and uncompromising support to the Police Force in maintaining law and order. Public order is well maintained in the State, making it a haven of peace and tranquillity.

My Government has made it clear that it will not spare anyone who tries to whip up communal passions and create caste tensions and the Police have been given a clear mandate to curb such activities with an iron hand. The ability of the Government to understand and effectively articulate the just and fair sentiments of the people of the State on critical issues has been one of the important reasons for the proper maintenance of public order in the State.

Although persistent attempts have been made by Maoists to strike roots in the State, they have not been allowed to gain a foothold thanks to ceaseless vigilance particularly in the tri-junction area between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala where some

intelligence inputs indicated that Naxalites were likely to try to establish their presence. Similarly, firm action has been taken to quell the activities of some front organizations espousing left wing extremist ideology and attempting to build up a mass base. Tamil Nadu has also been free of religious fundamentalist violence.

While the Sri Lankan Tamil militancy problem is no longer a serious concern in our State, there are still about 67,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in 110 camps and about 35,000 other Sri Lankan Tamils living outside the camps. The human problem of Sri Lankan Tamils being treated as second class citizens in their own land in post ethnic conflict Sri Lanka, is a major emotive issue in the State. The Government of India's insensitive handling of the issue as well as its inability to protect Indian fishermen, pursuing their livelihood in the Indian Ocean, from being regularly subjected to murderous attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy is a serious problem. I have repeatedly written to the Prime Minister protesting against the unprovoked, dastardly, murderous attacks upon and arrests of innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen in pursuit of their traditional livelihood on the high seas. These continuing attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy, and the lack of a suitable and effective response by

the Government of India, have agitated the entire fisherfolk community in Tamil Nadu, and this impinges upon the internal security environment in the State.

I have repeatedly addressed the Government of India to try to seek a permanent solution to the problem by getting back Indian sovereignty over the island of Kachatheevu, and its surrounding area which was permanently ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 without the requisite mandate of Parliament.

I, therefore, use this forum to again urge the Government of India to take effective steps to:

1. Prevent unprovoked, murderous attacks on Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.

2. Retrieve Kachatheevu and its surrounding area as a permanent solution to this vexatious issue.

3. Press for the redrawal of the International Boundary Line.

There is a reference in the Agenda to the setting up of a separate cadre of investigation within the Police Force as a measure of professionalization. The proposal to set up a separate crime investigation agency under a Board of Investigation with a separate cadre of Officers and men is an ill-conceived remedy which is worse than the malady.

In Tamil Nadu, in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court, separate Crime Investigation and Law and Order wings have been created in every Police Station. However, integration between the two wings at the District level and at the State level is achieved through the institutions of the Superintendent of Police and the State Police Headquarters, respectively. Separating investigation and Police functions into water tight compartments by creating a separate cadre is neither practical nor expedient. This is why I also opposed the proposal in the report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission to create a Board of Investigation as an entity separate from the Police.

Tamil Nadu also has several specialized investigation units to investigate crimes including the Economic Offences Wing, the Idol Wing, the Commercial Crimes Investigation Wing, the Anti Land Grab Cells, Cyber Crime Cells and Video Piracy Cell. The expertise of Police Personnel can be developed only by proper training and not by strait jacketing them into artificially created compartments. Police Officers who have the aptitude for investigation and who have been trained to specialize in any of the above specialized wings, can be assigned investigative

work, irrespective of normal tenure and depending on need. Hence, we see no merit in the suggestion to create a separate cadre for investigation.

A strong, efficient, well equipped and disciplined Police Force is the only answer to meeting the challenges posed by anti social elements who try to disrupt law and order. All the Hon'ble Chief Ministers who are present here today would agree that, mainly, it is financial constraints that stand in the way of the efforts of State Governments to modernize and upgrade the Police Force. I request the Union Government to substantially increase the levels of financial assistance for the modernization of the Police Force. **I wish to point out that the release of funds by the Government of India under the Police Modernisation Scheme to Tamil Nadu has come down drastically in 2012-13. I am also disappointed to note that the Central share in the scheme of modernization, which was 75%, has been brought down to 60%, and the State Government's share increased to 40%, placing a much higher burden on the finances of the State Government.** In contrast, realizing the imperative need to improve the infrastructure, mobility and weaponry of the Police Force, my Government has sanctioned Rs.619

crores in the last financial year. I, therefore, urge the Government of India to come out with a refurbished National plan for the modernization of the State Police Forces and substantially step up the allocation of funds to the States.

Mega cities have unique problems. They are often business capitals or financial hubs or IT capitals with a large presence of foreigners, foreign companies and diplomatic missions and people from several States of India. This makes them naturally attractive targets for terrorist attacks, requiring policing in these cities to be qualitatively different from other cities with emphasis on prompt response from the Police, which requires high mobility, high tech communication, surveillance cameras etc. Needless to say, Special Central Assistance is required to meet these costs. It has been indicated that the Central allocation of Rs.88.47 crores for Chennai, will have to be matched by the State on a 60:40 ratio, involving an expenditure of Rs.58.98 crores over a two year period, placing a heavy burden on the State's resources. **Considering the importance of mega cities from the national point of view, we are of the view that the Centre must bear the entire cost of modernization.**

Development of forensic capabilities is very important for scientific investigation and to ensure

effective prosecution of crimes. Tamil Nadu has a strong Forensic Science capability with laboratories at the State, Regional and District levels. In this connection, I suggest that one of the areas that the Government of India should focus on is the creation of a national level database of fingerprints which can be accessed by investigating officers. It is a sad reflection on the state of affairs that hardly 1000 cases are detected all over India on the basis of fingerprint technology. I may mention here with some pride that over 50% of these detections are contributed by Tamil Nadu. I am convinced that by the setting up of a National online database of fingerprints which is shared by the Police Forces of all States, there will be a quantum jump in the detection of crimes. A National project to be implemented in mission mode in computerized finger print applications is the need of the hour. I also suggest that bringing in the necessary legislation to enable the building up of DNA data bases should be given top priority by the Government of India.

The Tamil Nadu Police Technical Services Wing looks after the communication / electronics and IT network of the Police Force in the State. I am proud to state that the Tamil Nadu Technical

Services Wing has established TETRA based modern control rooms in Salem and Tirunelveli. Upgradation of 2 Mbps to 34 Mbps leased line to the Central Server at State Headquarters has been established so as to enable more Police stations to log in concurrently to the Central Server. Provision of 500 more broadband connections to Police Units throughout the State has been undertaken at a cost of Rs.40 lakhs. All Police Stations and important Police Units have been provided with broadband internet connectivity. A Network connectivity survey has been conducted throughout the State, covering all Police Stations and Special Units for the establishment of the CCTNS project. Web based application software like CCTNS Tracker and SB CID DSR software have been developed.

The CCTNS has been successfully implemented in four pilot Districts in the State and is under implementation in the remaining Districts. I am glad to state that implementation in the State is well ahead of time. I strongly suggest that there should be more flexibility in the implementation of the CCTNS and States should be encouraged to develop their own applications and decide their priorities, instead of trying to standardize Police Station

records and practices by a centrally driven initiative. Basic protocols can be laid down for sharing of information, but it should be left to the States to design and implement computer projects.

Tamil Nadu has a well oiled Intelligence gathering apparatus with a number of specialised wings to look after various threats to public order. The Tamil Nadu State Intelligence wing is an effective and highly professional body which participates in the Subsidiary Multi Agency Centre by promptly acting on the information received by it and by sharing relevant information with the central agencies through this mechanism. The professional capabilities and strengths of the anti-terrorism and anti-militancy network of the State intelligence wing have been recognized nationally.

As in the case of criminal investigation, the Government of India has mooted the idea of a separate cadre for intelligence. I am of the view that such a move would be divisive and counterproductive. The gathering of intelligence is a highly sensitive operation and the need for surveillance even within the intelligence unit to monitor integrity is continuous. The existing system of deputation from the main force into the intelligence unit has the

advantage of choice and the opportunity to monitor internal efficiency and integrity. Such flexibility will be unavailable in an independent cadre. Our efforts to improve the functioning of the Intelligence Wing will be further strengthened if the Central Government comes forward to provide funds liberally for technological upgradation through the wide spread use of computers, CCTV coverage etc., for provision of infrastructure such as vehicles and for providing special allowances to motivate the personnel. **We have incentivized service in the Intelligence Wing by providing a special pay of 10% of basic pay to personnel in the Intelligence Wing up to the rank of Additional Superintendent of Police in order to attract the best talent. My request to the Government of India made last year at this same Conference has still not been acceded to.** I wish to reiterate that the Government of India should reimburse the special incentive paid to the Intelligence Wing by the State Government.

I now come to the contentious issue of the constitution of the proposed National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC). At the Conference held on the subject on 5th May, 2012, I had exhaustively conveyed the opposition of my Government to

the formation of the NCTC based on a number of very valid, tenable and legal arguments, the least of which was that none of the State Governments were consulted before the unilateral notification of NCTC, which in itself was a totally undemocratic act on the part of the Government of India. Serious doubts exist about the operational effectiveness of a Central Agency totally manned by officials of the Intelligence Bureau, armed with powers of arrest and seizure. The Ministry of Home Affairs proposal revealed a total lack of understanding of ground realities and a big brotherly attitude that sought to make a mockery of all democratic norms and attempted to reduce democratically elected State Governments to the status of pawns on a chessboard. The exercise of intelligence gathering is greatly dependent on State Police networks and any exclusive Central agency, shorn of any understanding of the local languages, and locally established crime syndicates partnering with terror networks, could be a sure recipe for disaster at the operational level. The turf war between the Intelligence Bureau and the Centre's own agencies like R&AW, the Directorate General of Military Intelligence are only too well known. Creating a further layer of contradictions through a dysfunctional structure would be counter-

productive. Any National Counter Terrorism Institution can ill afford to work in isolation from the State Police. I had also raised the question of accountability to the innocent local people whose lives could stand compromised by a centrally operated action of which none, including the State Police, had a clue. These unanswered questions challenged not only the wisdom of a unilaterally constituted, centrally administered and manned structure, but also the very effectiveness of such an elitist isolated force, with unfettered powers over the lives and liberties of the people. Based on my cogent and vehement arguments which were endorsed by the overwhelming sense of outrage and protest by a majority of the Chief Ministers who attended the Conference, it was indicated that the constitution of the NCTC would be kept in abeyance until the matter was re-examined so as to devise an effective counter terrorist strategy.

In my letter dated 28.12.2012, I had conveyed to the Prime Minister that no proactive step should be taken to set up the NCTC without consultation with the States and to communicate to the States the draft of any proposal that may be prepared for the setting up of such an Institution at the National level

to combat terrorism. The finalization of any such initiative should be done only after completion of the democratic process of consultation with all the States. The full contours of such a National Institution to counter terrorism have still not been shared with the State Governments. There are unconfirmed reports that the NCTC will now be constituted outside the Intelligence Bureau. I fail to understand why the Centre persists in dealing with such a sensitive matter in such an insidious fashion, treating the State Governments as though they are adversaries to be suspected rather than partners, and continues trying to establish the Counter Terrorism Centre by stealth rather than in a spirit of co-operation and transparency and in partnership with the State Governments. Surely, in a federal democracy like ours, democratically elected State Governments are as interested in the territorial integrity and unity of the Country as the Union Government? The Government of India should shed the mantle of suspicion and distrust and seek the active co-operation of all the State Governments as its equal partners in our fight against the common enemy --- Terrorism.

I would like to reiterate what I already stated in the Conference to discuss NCTC on May 5, 2012.

If terrorism is to be fought effectively, a nodal mechanism in the States should co-ordinate with the nodal central agency on matters of counter terrorism. A Rapid Action Counter Terrorist Force needs to be created in every State, which will function under the nodal State Agency. On receipt of information, the nodal State Agency should activate the force to organize appropriate operations. State Governments should be given liberal financial assistance by the Centre to raise such a force fully equipped with modern weapons and training. This would be, in my opinion, the appropriate strategy for counter terrorist operations. I am confident that all the Chief Ministers here will unhesitatingly endorse such a well designed, effective and democratically conceived measure to establish a structure that will effectively guard and protect India and all Indians from terror.

Tamil Nadu has a long coast line of 1076 km. The Coastal Security Group was established in Tamil Nadu in 1994, well before the Government of India's scheme of coastal security, which came into effect only in 2005. Patrolling along the coast and filtering at check posts has been done by the CSG in Tamil Nadu to prevent possible infiltration from

the sea route and also to prevent smuggling of contraband, especially explosives. Coastal Village Vigilance Committees have also been an important component of Coastal Policing in Tamil Nadu. So far, we have set up 12 Marine Police Stations, 12 Out Posts and 40 check posts and procured twelve 12-tonne boats and twelve 5-tonne boats. 30 more Marine Police Stations and 12 jetties and twenty 12-tonne boats have been proposed. Out of a sum of Rs.107.36 crores allotted by the Centre, only Rs.23.79 crores has been released so far. We had also proposed that All Terrain Vehicles may be supplied to the Marine Police Stations. However, since the Government of India did not agree, we went ahead and sanctioned 24 All Terrain Vehicles at a cost of Rs.1.56 crores. We consider that, in view of the sensitive nature of the Tamil Nadu Coast, the Government of India should come forward to sanction the purchase of All Terrain Vehicles for the Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group in larger numbers.

I have always been passionate about securing the goal of true gender equity in Tamil Nadu. As a result of my efforts, Tamil Nadu is undoubtedly today, the leading State in attaining the goal of equality before

law for women and has emerged as a State where women feel safe and secure. I wish to record here that my Government pioneered the setting up of All Women Police Stations in India more than 20 years ago in 1992. Today, there are All Women Police Stations in every Police sub-division in Tamil Nadu totaling 200. The proportion of women in the Police Force at 16.5 per cent is the highest in the country. The punishment in cases of sexual harassment was made more severe and the burden of proof to prove innocence was transferred to the accused in cases of death or suicide resulting from sexual harassment under the amendments to the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislature by my Government in 2002.

Impelled by the need to have an even stronger legislative basis to protect women from sexual violence, I have recently announced a fresh set of strong measures for the protection of women, a bold and innovative **'Thirteen Point Plan'**. Accordingly,

1. Cases relating to sexual violence against women would be treated as grave crimes and investigation would be carried out as far as possible by Women Police Personnel and be directly supervised by Deputy Superintendents of Police.

2. The review of investigation of these crimes will be regularly done by SPs and DIGs from the date of registration till the case is concluded.

3. Zonal IGs of Police will take up review of all such cases relating to sexual violence which are under investigation and pending before the courts and submit reports to the Additional Director General of Police.

4. The Goondas Act will be amended to take strong action against perpetrators of such crimes.

5. Fast Track Mahila Courts will be set up in all Districts to quickly conclude cases relating to sexual violence and crimes against women.

6. Women Advocates will be appointed as Government Prosecutors in these courts.

7. Steps would be taken to ensure that cases relating to violence against women are heard on a daily basis and concluded expeditiously.

8. The Union Government will be requested to make necessary amendments in the legal provisions to accord stringent punishment to sexual offenders.

9. Special Training Sessions on the provisions of legislations for the protection of women and proper methods of investigating sexual crimes will be imparted in the Police Training Institutions.

10. The Tamil Nadu Government will bear the entire medical expenses of women subjected to sexual violence and extend necessary assistance for their rehabilitation.

11. A unified helpline for women would be set up.

12. The Government has made it mandatory to install CCTV cameras in public buildings. This would also aid in identifying persons indulging in crimes against women.

13. Police Personnel in plain clothes will be deployed to monitor public places frequented by women and tough action would be taken against persons found harassing women.

Tamil Nadu is probably the only State in the country which has ordered the constitution of 42 Mahila Courts to be located in all the 32 Districts of the State. These measures, I am confident, will guarantee a safe and secure environment for all women in the State, including women in the workplace.

The quality of Policing can be improved only through a transparent recruitment system, by imparting proper training to Police Personnel, permitting unhindered functioning of the Police

Department and by creating support systems which will enable the Police to focus intensely on the core Police functions of maintenance of law and order and control and detection of crime. Tamil Nadu as a progressive State has been making steady and rapid progress on the path of innovation and Police reform. The Tamil Nadu Government has also put in place a fair, transparent and fool proof method of Police Recruitment through the Uniformed Services Recruitment Board. Training initiatives to transform attitudes like gender sensitisation workshops for all ranks- from Constable to DGP- have helped to create and sustain enduring change and impact. The training infrastructure in the State includes a modern Police Academy at the State level and a number of Recruit Schools across the State.

I have taken up several welfare measures to ensure better working conditions and better housing for Police Personnel in Tamil Nadu contributing to a higher morale and esprit de corps essential for better delivery of service on the frontline. The Police Force has been provided with health cover, insurance cover, housing facilities, canteens and improved working conditions such as adequate rest, allowances for extra days of work and proper barracks and dormitories to house the constabulary, deployed in distant places in

times of law and order disturbances.

After the Police, Prosecuting Machinery and the Courts, Prisons are the fourth major institution involved in the administration of justice as they lodge the offenders during the period of trial and conviction. I ordered the construction of a large, high security prison complex to house 3000 prisoners at Puzhal in 2003. We have modernized and upgraded security in prisons by putting in place X-Ray baggage scanners, conducting anti-sabotage checks by utilizing a dedicated dog squad and maintaining a high level of vigil. Video conferencing facilities to connect courts with prisons were first set up by me in 2004. These facilities have now been extended to cover 45 locations connecting all Central Prisons and Special Prisons in the State with 306 courts. It is my Government's intention to cover all courts and all jails in the State with video-conferencing to reduce the need for travel of prisoners improving security and reducing costs. Many novel measures have also been undertaken for the welfare of the prisoners and to protect their human rights.

To conclude, there is, in modern Indian Society, a perceptible telescoping tension and intolerance,

which threatens to make it more confrontationist, belligerent and prone to overt acts of violence. These have thrown up major challenges to the Police Force in maintaining law and order and compromising the internal security environment of the State. Such a situation warrants not only a major increase in the number of Policemen per 1000 persons in the population, it also requires a huge increase in the investment on modernization of the Police Force in terms of equipment, mobility, weaponry as well as more sophisticated technological aids in crime detection as well as surveillance. It also demands that the Government of India recognize that the maintenance of law and order and Police are State subjects in the Constitutional scheme and that the States should be treated as equal partners in a system where co-operation between State and Centre should prevail over narrow political considerations. The territorial integrity of our Country and the unity of our Nation are too valuable to be sacrificed at the altar of short term political gamesmanship. The effort must be to share intelligence, information, and resources between the States and by the Centre with the States, so that the war against the common enemy, Terror, Fundamentalism and Extremism **can** and **will** be won by us, **together**."

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SPEECH DELIVERED DURING THE FINALISATION OF ANNUAL PLAN FOR TAMIL NADU FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014 AT NEW DELHI ON 10.6.2013.

'ROUTE DIRECT CASH TRANSFERS THROUGH STATE GOVERNMENTS'

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission,Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia,

Hon'ble Minister of State for Planning and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Rajeev Shukla,

Hon'ble Members of the Union Planning Commission,

Hon'ble Finance Minister of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Senior officials of the Planning Commission, and Officers of the State Government,

I am here to discuss the Annual Plan for the year 2013-2014 as Tamil Nadu progresses on the path of rapid economic growth with distributive justice that my Government has always chosen to tread. In 2012-2013, the State had to overcome many challenges including a still anaemic global economic recovery a domestic national economy struggling to overcome policy paralysis and a severe drought with all Districts except Chennai being declared as drought affected. All these factors did impact the growth performance of the State and the GSDP growth rate in 2012-2013 was 4.14 per cent with agricultural growth being particularly hard hit. However, through steadfast resolve and continued commitment, we have sustained levels of investment and expenditure so as to ensure that a platform is laid for much higher growth in the remaining years of the 12th Five Year Plan. With the sustained and focused efforts that my Government is taking across all sectors, the State would still be able to achieve the proposed 11 per cent GDP growth target for 2013-2014.

2. **My Government has striven hard to ensure that adequate resources are raised for the numerous development programmes and the social safety net that my Government has designed and effectively**

implemented for the people of Tamil Nadu. Even in 2012-2013, notwithstanding a shortfall in releases of Central Assistance, we are confident of achieving the Annual Plan outlay of 28,000 crore rupees in full and perhaps even exceed it. I would therefore like to assure the Union Planning Commission that the Annual Plan target of 37,000 crore rupees proposed by my Government for 2013-2014 is backed by adequate resources. Under my stewardship, Tamil Nadu has maintained the proud record of always finding resources to fully perform and even exceed our Annual Plan outlay. Let me reiterate that we will ensure that this record will be met yet again.

3. I am disappointed to note, however, that in spite of the State's own efforts to mobilize resources to finance its Plan, the Central Government's support to the State Plan has not been in line with the promises made. This, in fact, is evidenced by the huge 20 per cent cut made in the Plan expenditure in the Revised Estimates for 2012-2013 in the Union Budget. I am constrained to observe that announcing high plan allocations and subsequently reducing them, not only undermines the credibility of the entire planning and budgeting process, but also adversely affects scheme implementation and the States' finances. In 2012-2013, the Central Government budgeted a release of 3473.48 crore rupees as Plan Assistance to Tamil Nadu.

But finally, only 2762.14 crore rupees was released. In spite of this, I am confident that Tamil Nadu will over-achieve the Annual Plan outlay of 28,000 crore rupees by filling the gap with the State's own resources.

4. I understand that a Group of Ministers has recently made certain recommendations regarding the restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Additional Central Assistance Schemes, including the merger of 170 schemes into 79 schemes. This appears to be a watering down of the recommendations of the B.K.Chaturvedi Committee and calculated to reduce the scale of Central assistance to the States. I urge the Deputy Chairman to ensure that at least these recommendations of the Group of Ministers are implemented quickly so that Centrally Sponsored Schemes do not further pre-empt the untied sources available to States to finance their own initiatives. I also understand that more flexible State specific guidelines are being proposed. While this is a welcome move, I suggest that as a measure of greater trust that the Central Government should place in the State Governments, All funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be released only to the Consolidated Fund of the States and not to other special entities at the State or District level.

5. I must refer here to the many people unfriendly measures taken by the Government of India that

have made life harder for the urban and rural poor who are already reeling under the impact of inflation and adverse seasonal conditions. I have strongly protested against the repeated increases in diesel prices, the reduction in allocation of kerosene for Tamil Nadu, certain provisions of the Food Security Bill, the removal of the levy system for sugar, all of which have serious consequences on the real incomes of the people. The State Governments are closest to the people and my Government's priority is to shield the people against the devastating impact of such ill advised measures. Understandably, this has thrown a greater burden on the State's finances. The Government of India should consult and heed the State Governments' views on such key livelihood issues which have a direct impact on the people's welfare.

6. The Centre's attempts to thrust ill designed schemes upon the State continue despite public and official protests by us. The latest example of such unilateralism is the much hyped Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme. The Government of India launched the scheme with virtually no consultation with, or feedback from the State Governments. Tamil Nadu is not opposed to Direct Benefit Transfer per se. In fact, **the Government of Tamil Nadu has already adopted the mechanism of direct cash transfer through bank accounts of the beneficiaries for schemes which**

involve conditional cash transfers like Scholarships, Maternity Benefits and Social Security Pensions even before the Central roll out. Our objection to the move of the Government of India and the Union Planning Commission is based on three very sound grounds.

7. **First**, we are strongly opposed to any move to monetize and transfer in cash the subsidy element of food grains and kerosene under the Public Distribution System and supply of fertilizers and other inputs to farmers. In such cases it is not just the quantum of subsidy but the access to and timely availability of commodities that are critical concerns. Food and energy security cannot be compromised.

8. **Second,** we are strongly opposed to the executive overreach by the Government of India and the attempt to insidiously bypass the State Governments through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme. The Union Planning Commission has issued a series of instructions and guidelines on a number of conceptual and operational issues relating to Direct Benefit Transfer with virtually no consultation with the State Governments. Clearly, the Union Planning Commission is overstepping its advisory and allocational mandate and taking on an executive role. State Governments are expected to place their field machinery at the disposal of the Government of India and are reduced to becoming mere bystanders.

The entire approach divorces authority from responsibility and accountability and is violative of the spirit of federalism and democratic decentralization.

9. **Third**, is the more practical issue of the design of the 25 schemes currently identified for the Direct Benefit Transfer roll-out. Many are schemes where both the Centre and the State share the costs. Some Central schemes are just belated attempts to replicate State schemes. For example, the Indira Gandhi Matritva Suraksha Yojana draws inspiration from a Tamil Nadu scheme, namely, the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Scheme, under which I have provided a much higher benefit of Rs.12,000/- and a wider coverage. In many scholarship schemes, States meet the committed portion of the cost and the Centre reimburses the additional costs. Here, a clear demarcation of Central and State shares beneficiary-wise, is not possible. Therefore, in all such cases, direct release by the Government of India will lead to duplication of efforts and waste of resources. I personally feel that it would be administratively prudent to leave the implementation to the States as is being done now instead of trying to centralize it to the Ministries at New Delhi.

10. I would like to put forward an alternative win-win proposal on the assumption and the hope that the intention of the Government of India

is to ensure efficient delivery of benefits to the people. The Government of India should route its funds through the State Government which is already progressively switching over to the bank mode of disbursement for all beneficiary oriented schemes. The Government of India can monitor implementation more rigorously because the data will be seamlessly available for scrutiny. This would not only make the roll out of Direct Benefit Transfer faster but will also enable the inclusion of large schemes like the disbursement of Social Security Pensions. As I have been emphasizing time and again in various fora, the Government of India should treat the State Governments as equal partners in the march towards inclusive growth and development.

11. As the Commission is aware, my Government has revived the State finances from the doldrums in which we found them in May, 2011. Recently, we presented our third consecutive revenue surplus Budget. Continuing on the path of development, I have proposed a Plan size of Rs.37,000 crores for 2013-2014, which is 32 per cent higher than the Plan size of 2012-2013. This Annual Plan outlay has been proposed in the overall context of the Twelfth Five Year Plan's outlay of 2.11 lakh crore rupees. While 49.3 per cent of Plan expenditure will be on social services like health and education, the outlay for

infrastructure sectors like transport and energy has been increased substantially. In terms of resources, 91 per cent of the Plan will be financed through the State's own resources supported by budgetary borrowing and we expect that 9 per cent of the Plan outlay will be met through Central Assistance. I request the Central Government to ensure that it meets this very modest share of Tamil Nadu's Plan financing commitment this year. I am hopeful that last year's disappointment will not spill over into this year.

12. Let me now briefly discuss the efforts that my Government is taking for the revival of the State's economy. We propose to step up the Plan allocation for agriculture and allied activities by 32 per cent to **3340 crore rupees.** The strategy will be to intervene in critical areas which are in dire need of investment, like agricultural infrastructure and timely supply of adequate inputs to increase both farm productivity and farm income. In order to augment farm income, there will be greater focus on allied activities. Along with the continuance of landmark schemes like Systematic Rice Intensification technique, Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative, precision farming to improve productivity and free distribution of milch cows, sheep and goats to the poor, my Government is launching new initiatives like the establishment of a revolving fund for the promotion of fertigation,

increasing the coverage of micro-irrigation through a voucher system of benefit transfer and perimeter vegetable cultivation. I must acknowledge here that the National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP), which has been designed to give adequate flexibility to State Governments, has greatly helped in achieving the desired outcomes. I suggest that this design is worth replicating in other sectors. In 2012-2013, programmes worth 669 crore rupees were approved for Tamil Nadu under the NADP. During the current financial year, we have budgeted 700 crore rupees for NADP.

13. My Government is determined to implement permanent solutions for the State's water woes. We have already started implementing two vital river link projects within the State and a third will commence shortly. The Supreme Court has directed the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute a Special Committee to look into the interlinking of rivers and to lay down guidelines for a reasonable time frame and cost. The Government of Tamil Nadu has already nominated its members to the Special Committee. The project profiles prepared under the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 Document cover irrigation projects including inter-linking projects at an estimated cost of about 41,250 crore rupees, for which we expect substantial financial support from the Government of India. To enable this, the guidelines of the Accelerated

Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) have to be modified to ensure that the requirements of a water scarce State like Tamil Nadu, which has already exploited almost all its surface water potential are suitably accommodated. I hope that all our pending irrigation projects and reimbursement claims will be processed early. I request the Deputy Chairman to assist us in securing timely sanctions.

14. Mr. Deputy Chairman, you had recently written to me enclosing a document entitled "Manufacturing: From Policy to Results", on the possible initiatives under the Manufacturing Strategy for the country. In this context, I would like to briefly outline for you some of the steps already taken by my Government. The Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 Document has, as its foremost goal, an increase in the share of manufacturing in the State's economy to 22 per cent. It specifically aims at making Tamil Nadu the most favoured manufacturing investment destination in the Country and one of the top three investment destinations in Asia. To this end, the focus will be on providing quality infrastructure and human resources to foster a culture of innovation and to have a facilitative regulatory environment.

15. My Government has recently taken a number of initiatives to expand industrial growth to the backward regions of the State, especially in Southern Tamil Nadu. In the coming years, 9 new industrial

parks will be created in 9 backward Southern Districts making available an additional area of 20,650 acres. Special incentives including waiver of stamp duty, land availability at concessional rates and increased capital subsidy will be provided to industries that are established in these parks.

16. I recently announced a package of measures for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector since this is a high priority area for my Government. The capital subsidy for plant and machinery of MSMEs will be increased to 25%. The Small Industries Development Corporation will create a land bank of 2000 acres for the MSMEs. Besides, 20% of the land in new industrial parks meant for large industries will be set apart for allotment to MSMEs. A single window system will be established for facilitating business start-up procedures. My Government will also incentivize aggregation of scattered MSMEs into self-contained industrial complexes. A multi-storeyed industrial complex will be created on a pilot basis to relocate some of the MSMEs from their existing over-crowded locations.

17. We have identified more than 200 specific infrastructure projects to be implemented in Tamil Nadu over the next 10 years as part of the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023. To facilitate the completion of projects, a policy framework in the form of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Act, Rules

and Regulations, has been put in place along with the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders (Public Private Partnerships Procurement) Rules. I may mention here that a recent United Nations Report on Probity in Public Procurement has recognized Tamil Nadu as the first State to have a legislative framework to deal with Public Private Partnership procurement. I chair the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board, which will be responsible for implementing this policy framework. The objective is to improve the quality of project preparation and development, ensure transparent and efficient procurement, monitor and facilitate project implementation, and address any post implementation issues. The Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Fund (TNIDF) which will provide viability gap funding, and a Project Preparation Fund (PPF) have also been set up. In 2013-14, 2000 crore rupees have been provided for the TNIDF and 200 crore rupees for the Project Preparation Fund.

18. In order to significantly enhance the efficiency of project management and to expedite the implementation of projects, my Government will launch an ambitious Comprehensive Project Formulation, Execution and Management System, which will integrate and computerize the entire process from project formulation to works implementation and completion in the State. It will

include all steps right from the stage of preparation of estimates, tendering, award of tenders, execution of works including measurements, up to the final payment of bills. Such a system will also include an e-procurement portal and the adoption of electronic tendering procedures in Government.

19. We have also launched the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme (TNIPP), with JICA assistance, a very innovatively designed programme, which aligns the policy priorities of the State Government with the expectations of investors including foreign investors. The innovative approach of this Programme came in for special mention during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of India to Japan. It will secure programme outcomes through a policy matrix containing a set of policy measures for investment promotion. These include the simplification of the application process for investment, improvement of the monitoring of regulatory clearances, human resource development and the acceleration of infrastructure development. A Small Infrastructure Project Pooled Fund to finance and speedily implement small projects that are needed to overcome infrastructural bottlenecks in investment locations is also part of the programme loan.

20. When my Government assumed office in 2011, the State's power utilities were already reeling under

a huge debt burden of over 40,000 crore rupees, a bitter bequest that the previous Government left for us. In the past two years, the State Government has allocated substantial resources to revive the State DISCOM to establish more power projects and to increase efficiency in transmission and distribution. Much before the announcement of the Financial Restructuring Plan for the State DISCOMs by the Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu had announced the taking over of 50 per cent of the DISCOM's short-term liabilities. The financial restructuring plan for the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company is also at an advanced stage of finalization.

21. Ongoing projects have been fast tracked in order to ensure that new hydro and thermal generation projects, commissioned within this year will add a generation capacity of 3230 MW to the grid. Procurement action has commenced for the newly announced 660 MW Ennore Expansion Project and for the 2x660 MW super critical units each at Udangudi and Ennore with a total capacity of 2640 MW. More capacity addition has also been planned. The State is a leader in non-conventional energy generation and ranks first in terms of wind energy. To evacuate power from wind mills, a 400 kilovolt transmission corridor across the State is being strengthened at a cost of 4000 crore rupees. Recently, my Government unveiled

a comprehensive Solar Power Policy with many new initiatives. As in the case of the Rain Water Harvesting mission which was launched by me in the year 2001, my Government will make the generation and use of solar energy a people's movement and will achieve a solar power capacity addition of 3000 MW by the year 2015. The State is also availing of financial assistance from the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA) to upgrade the transmission network in the State. Together, all these efforts will go a long way in mitigating the demand-supply gap in the power sector. I request you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, to ensure that the delays in securing coal linkages and in the transportation of coal are overcome by more effective co-ordination between the Central Ministries and PSUs.

22. Tamil Nadu has been a front runner in providing Public Health Care for the poor at affordable costs. With its pioneering schemes, sustained efforts and infusion of funds in critical areas, Tamil Nadu has already achieved the Millennium Development Goals of reducing Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate. The Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme launched by my Government has been a huge success. I suggest that, instead of implementing parallel schemes, the Government of India should facilitate the integration of the Rashtriya

Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the health insurance schemes already operating in States like Tamil Nadu. We welcome the announcement on the new Urban Health Mission, which fills an important gap in primary health care in urban areas.

23. Tamil Nadu has provided the best services and infrastructure to its schools. The Pupil-Teacher ratio in Tamil Nadu stands at 27, which is one of the best in the country. The Government is ensuring that school going children are provided with text books, note books, atlases, maps, geometry boxes, colour pencils and other stationery items, school bags, school uniforms, footwear, transportation facilities and, of course, the nutritionally enhanced hot midday meal. The next focus area for my Government is the improvement in the quality of education. A number of measures are being taken to ensure that Government funded schools do not lag behind private schools in the provision of teaching and learning aids and technology. Focused attention is being given to the weaker sections of Society and to girls' education. It would be pertinent to note here that in the past ten years, the gender gap in terms of literacy has reduced substantially in Tamil Nadu, and the Government is fully committed to nullify the gap within ten years. What has been disappointing and holding up our efforts has been the huge and arbitrary reduction in eligible grants

both under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA). Amounts committed at the time of approval of the Annual Work Plans are not being released by the Government of India, which badly affects implementation and is a constraint in achieving our targets.

24. Highly skilled professional human resources are a prerequisite for sustaining the growth tempo of a modern economy. Under the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023, the goal is to have at least 50 per cent of the age cohort enrolled in higher education. Tamil Nadu already has the largest number of Engineering colleges. Besides, my Government is also focusing on humanities and basic sciences. In the past 2 years, we have established 22 new Arts and Science Colleges and one new Government Engineering College. In addition, an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in the public-private partnership mode and a National Law School are also being established through the special efforts of my Government. In the current year, another 8 Arts and Science Colleges, 10 Polytechnic Colleges and 2 Engineering Colleges will start functioning. These endeavors will enable our youth to participate more meaningfully in the growth story of the State.

25. Skill development is another area of major concern. My Government fully recognizes that

Tamil Nadu, as an early adopter of the small family norm is at a cusp. This State has to adequately skill its present generation of workers and those entering the workforce now in order to ensure that the demographic dividend is fully taken advantage of. The Tamil Nadu Skill Development Mission has an ambitious agenda of understanding and matching the aspirations and needs of different stakeholders, including the student body, the labour force and Industry. The annual allocation for the Mission has been increased to 100 crore rupees from 75 crore rupees. The State's schemes of providing free laptop computers to all Higher Secondary School and College students and the provision of free mixies, grinders and fans to all poor households have to be seen in the context of improving skill levels of the student population and of enabling higher participation by women in the work force by freeing them from domestic drudgery. I am determined to ensure that Tamil Nadu grows rich before it grows old.

26. The demand supply gap in the housing sector has not reduced despite many years of sustained investment. My Government has launched a scheme for the construction of Green Houses with solar power which could be a model for other States. The unit cost of each house has recently been increased to 2.10 lakh rupees. The Centre has made no substantial addition to its investment in the housing

sector and the increases have not even been covered for inflation. The unit cost of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) houses even after the recent increase is only 70,000 rupees which is highly inadequate. Fixation of an artificially low unit cost effectively makes the scheme virtually non-implementable. It excludes the poorest of the poor from the schemes and restricts its benefits to those who can mobilise the additional funds necessary to complete the house. As of now, Tamil Nadu is contributing an additional 67,500 rupees per house to raise the unit cost to 1.20 lakh rupees. There is also an urgent need to revisit the space norms. Hence I strongly urge that the unit cost of IAY houses should be stepped up to at least 1.50 lakh rupees which may be shared in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States. On the urban side also, the housing shortage is huge, particularly for the people from the Lower Income Group (LIG). I regret to note that the much hyped Rajiv Awas Yojana has not made any headway. However, my Government, on its own has announced that we will build 50,000 homes in the next two years in the LIG category. We hope that the Government of India will extend support for this initiative and will help us reduce the gap in urban housing stock.

27. We have waited in vain for 2 years for the second phase of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). India's cities cannot

be starved of infrastructure financing any further. I strongly urge the Government of India to finalize the modified guidelines for the JNNURM-II, in consultation with the States and allow the States greater flexibility in the implementation of schemes based on the local needs and capacity differentials. The scheme design must not snuff out innovative loan based financing initiatives. Our State has already prepared a shelf of projects including DPRs for major infrastructure schemes including storm water drains, under-ground sewerage, water supply, and solid waste management and we would be in a position to utilize JNNURM funds in full as soon as the programme design is finalized. Tamil Nadu is the most urbanized State in the Country and we have been virtually left alone to shoulder the entire responsibility of coping with the ever increasing infrastructure financing needs of rapid urbanisation. Two major missions - Integrated Urban Development Mission (IUDM) and the Chennai Mega City Development Mission (CMCDM) - have been under implementation for the past two years. An amount of 2,500 crore rupees has been allocated for the first two years.

28. An “Open Defecation Free State by 2015” is a high priority goal announced by me for Tamil Nadu. The Government has drawn up a three year comprehensive plan and launched the scheme for

eradication of open defecation in urban areas from the year 2011-2012. The scheme will be continued in 2013-2014 with an outlay of 72.60 crore rupees. This scheme focuses on increasing public toilet facilities and IEC activities to sensitize the people. For rural areas, the unit cost of individual toilets under the Total Sanitation Campaign has been increased to 5000 rupees. With additional State contribution and by dovetailing funds from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Scheme (MGNREGS), our State provides 11,000 rupees per toilet. Sanitary Complexes for Women in villages have been a great success and my Government is now establishing Sanitary Complexes for Men as well. These efforts are expected to ensure that there will be no open defecation in the State after 2015.

29. Desalination is an important alternative source of water supply for Chennai and other coastal habitations in Tamil Nadu in order to insulate them against sole dependence on monsoon based sources. The Nemmeli Desalination plant, which received Government of India support has started functioning at full capacity. The State Government is taking further initiatives to augment drinking water sources for Chennai City. The State has planned to establish another 400 mld treatment capacity desalination plant at Pattipulam, south of Chennai. The project cost is 2500 crore rupees. I urge the Government of

India to allocate the maximum financial assistance for this project.

30. Learning from the experience of the recent drought and the consequent water shortage in coastal areas, I propose to establish five desalination plants of 20 mld each along the coast line of the State. The approximate cost for these projects will be 700 crore rupees. I request the Union Planning Commission to extend Additional Central Assistance to the extent of 210 crore rupees for the desalination plants.

31. As I place proposals before you for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for 2013-2014, I must also mention that the ACA for 2012-2013 has not yet been fully received. Out of the total sanction of 160 crore rupees, only 128.63 crore rupees have been released by the Union Planning Commission. The remaining amount of 31.37 crore rupees was not released in the previous financial year. The non-release of ACA promised in the Union Planning Commission discussion at the level of the Deputy Chairman with State Chief Ministers, is a serious issue. I am sure that you would share our distress in this regard and hope that this is just an aberration which will be rectified immediately and that the ACA for the current year would be released in time.

32. Before I conclude, I once again call upon the Union Planning Commission to effectively perform its core function of indicative planning and to play its appropriate assigned role in the growth story of the Country. I also call upon the Government of India to adopt a consensus-based co-operative approach towards the State to ensure better and desirable outcomes for the people.

33. I note that there is a change in the pattern of official level discussions this year which is definitely a welcome improvement. I hope this will help both the Union Planning Commission and other Ministries in the Government of India to understand the aspirations and capabilities of the State better. It should lead to the commitment of more untied funds to allow for greater flexibility in framing State specific innovative programmes which can lead to more accelerated inclusive and sustainable growth.

34. I thank the Commission for this opportunity.

Vanakkam.

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HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER PRESS BRIEF IN TAMIL NADU HOUSE, NEW DELHI ON 10.06.2013

'RESTORE CREDIBILITY OF PLANNING BUDGETARY PROCESS'

"The annual Plan outlay for Tamilnadu for the year 2013-2014 has been fixed at Rs. 37,128 crore rupees. We sought a plan outlay of 37,000 crores and over and above that the Union Planning Commission has agreed to give us 128 crore rupees as additional central assistance. So, the total plan size is 37,128 crore rupees .

There are some points that I would like to emphasize. A 20% cut was made by the Government of India in the plan expenditure in the revised estimates for 2012-2013. Last year in 2012-2013, the central Government budgeted plan assistance for Tamil Nadu for 3,473.48 crore rupees. But finally the amount released was only 2762.14 crore rupees. So, the credibility of the entire planning and budgetary process has been undermined and the State finances and scheme implementation have been adversely affected as a result. In spite of being let down by the Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu not only fulfilled but overachieved its

plan outlay of 28000 crore rupees fixed for last year 2012-13 with the State's own resources. Not only that the additional central assistance (ACA) for 2012-13 last year was fixed at 160 crore rupees but only 128.63 crore rupees was actually released. The remaining amount of 31.37 crore rupees was not released in the previous financial year. The non-release of additional central assistance promised in a meeting of the Union Planning Commission at the level of the Deputy Chairman with the State Chief Minister is a serious matter and we hope that this is an aberration and will not be repeated again this year and we hope that whatever the Central Government or the Union Planning Commission has committed itself to this year will be released in full.

Coming to this year's plan outlay, I have already said it has been fixed at 37,128 crore rupees. In terms of resources, 91% of the plan will be financed through the State's own resources supported by budgetary borrowings and only 9% will come from the centre. That is all that is to say about the meeting that took place today. This is a routine administrative business."

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SPEECH DELIVERED DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR OF THE CANCER INSTITUTE, CHENNAI ON 12.6.2013.

CHIEF MINISTER FORESEES FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT AT CENTRE NEXT YEAR

It is with great pleasure, that I take part in this landmark event, that rededicates the services of this colossal institution, in its ardent and assiduous mission to save people from the claws of the killer disease- Cancer. In the words of Sir William Osler, “Medicine is an art, not a trade; a calling, not a business; a calling in which your heart will be exercised equally with your head”. The Cancer Institute has verily given life to this mission, it has indeed lived its mission in its 60 years of existence.

The Cancer Institute, founded by the illustrious icon Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy, had its humble beginning

on July, 18th, 1954, in a small hut on the land donated by Shri.Puniakoti Mudaliar. Dr. Muthulakshmi hailed from an era when it was considered rebellion for girls to even think independently. True to her inner calling, she became the first woman doctor of India in 1912. Dr.Muthulakshmi along with two Europeans founded the Women's India Association (WIA) in 1918 She became the first Indian woman member of a Legislative Council in 1927. Her achievements as a legislator and social reformer have had a lasting impact on the lives of Indian womanhood.

To honour this great luminary, the Government of Tamil Nadu instituted the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit scheme. After I assumed power for the 3rd time in 2011, I increased the financial assistance under this scheme to Rs.12,000 to be given to pregnant women from poor families as maternal assistance, in order to compensate the wage loss during pregnancy, to access nutritious food, and to avoid low birth weight babies. Improvement of facilities for institutional delivery and prevention of maternal and infant mortality was high on our list of priorities. On an average, 6 lakh women benefit from the scheme every year. During 2012-2013, 625.51 crore rupees have been disbursed. For the

current financial year, 720 crore rupees have been allocated for this programme.

In 1949, Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy initiated the cancer relief fund of the WIA to set up a Specialty Cancer Hospital. Started in the 'Sevagram' type hut-cottages with 12 beds, this 9 acres hospice has grown in the face of adversity and is today a famed Institute in cancer treatment and research.

The Cancer Institute would not have achieved its laurels but for the dedication of Dr. V. Shanta to the cause of cancer. The name of Dr.V. Shanta is irrevocably intertwined and is a homogenous entity with the Cancer Institute. Her commitment to the cause is compelling and riveting. Dr.Shanta answered her inner calling to serve the sick and needy, foregoing a lucrative career. In 1954, when Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy founded the Cancer Institute with the Womens' Indian Association Cancer Relief Fund, Dr. Shanta had just then finished her Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) Course. In April 1955 she joined the fledgling Cancer Institute as its Resident Medical Officer. Dr. Shanta is now Chairperson of the Cancer Institute, Chennai. Her entire medical life of over 50 years has been dedicated to the mission of organising care of cancer patients, the study of the

disease, its prevention and control and the generation of specialists and scientists in different aspects of Oncologic Sciences. She has played a pioneering role along with Dr Krishnamurthi in the development of the Cancer Institute (WIA) to the level of a major comprehensive cancer centre of national and international stature.

The Cancer Institute was established at a time when diagnosis of Cancer was considered a certain death sentence.It was the determination of these visionaries that led to the metamorphosis of the untreatable killer scourge into a curable and manageable disease. A paradigm shift in the treatment of cancer, making it affordable, accessible and equitable was also possible, thanks to this fine institution.

I personally have great respect and regard for Dr.Shanta who, through her tireless, selfless service was and is, a prime mover in the field of cancer research and treatment. After I assumed office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the 3rd time in 2011, my Government instituted the Avvaiyar award to honour women for their outstanding contribution in the fields of social reform, women's development, religious harmony, language, arts, tradition, culture, science, journalism and administration,

among others. Dr.Shantha was rightfully chosen for the Avvaiyar Award for the year 2013. It was with great pleasure that I presented the award, on the occasion of International Women's Day, to Dr.Shantha. Besides, she is also the recipient of several other prestigious awards, the Padma Shri in 1986, and the Ramon Magsaysay Award for the year 2005, and the Padma Bhushan in 2006. Her astounding humility amazes us and her empowering persona, fills us with awe. She has raised the bar for all humanity, into a rare realm of selfless service, for a cause dear to her heart.

Living its mission of providing state-of–the-art treatment to people with all types of cancer, the Cancer Institute, equipped with world class medical facilities, houses 423 beds of which 297 are free, and treats over 1,25,000 patients annually. People from all over India and abroad are drawn by the healing ethos of this great institution. Over 66% of them are indigent, and are being treated free of charge. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been sanctioning a maintenance grant annually, to the Cancer Institute, in aid of its services to the poor. The maintenance grant is being given every year, starting with 9 lakh rupees from 1981-1982. Ever since 1992-1993, this grant was revised, with 10% increase annually. 2012-

2013 saw the revision to 1.75 crore rupees. Currently, based on the request of Dr.Shantha, the maintenance grant for the Cancer Institute has been enhanced to 2.5 crore rupees, with an annual increase of 15%, in future.

The Institute has grown over the years into a comprehensive Cancer Centre, with a hospital, research division and educational facilities. The Institute has pioneered several concepts in cancer detection and therapy in India, such as conducting the country's first cancer survey, and setting up the first comprehensive pediatric cancer clinic, among others. We are all aware of the taboos and stigmas attached to cancer, and the Cancer Institute seeks to break free, and liberate patients, by providing them with an encouraging atmosphere of healing. One-third of the patients, who walk in here, leave the campus fully healed and well. Though this is indeed impressive, we must agree that there are miles in cancer research to be traversed, to reach the goal of 100% survival. The commitment to wipe this scourge away from the face of the earth, is echoed in the words of Dr.Shanta when she says that, the best day in her life would be the day, when the Cancer Institute is closed down, because of lack of cancer patients.

The hospital is doing the optimum it can, as expressed in the famous quote, "to cure sometimes, to relieve often and to comfort always". Such is the service rendered by the doctors, nurses and support staff of this hospital, and they deserve all appreciation, for their undaunted efforts in alleviating the suffering of the patients brought here for treatment.

I salute all the doctors, nurses and staff of this institution, who have been continuing this saga of healing, with extraordinary skill and ability. The pain, the fear, the suffering; the huge psychological impact cancer has, on its patients, on their friends and families, and the cost issues, still linger. Yet, laced through all of that, is a sense of accomplishment, of having artfully mounted a support system, in the face of cancer, something unthought of, a few decades ago. And this, is their achievement!

This place offers hope, and hope brings about healing. When the Japanese mend broken objects, they aggrandize the damage, by filling the cracks with gold. They believe that, when something has suffered damage, and has a history,it becomes more beautiful. This indeed is true, for the millions of cancer survivors, who have come out stronger, and more beautiful than before, and the Cancer Institute

can justifiably be proud of its 60 year old heritage, of creating such wonderful people.

I have always considered the health of the people in Tamil Nadu, as my topmost priority. A healthy State, is a happy State. Productivity is high, and so is development, in a healthy State. I am happy to note here that Tamil Nadu stands, as one of the best performing States, in terms of implementing Reproductive and Child Health schemes, and has already achieved the National Rural Health Mission and Reproductive Child Health goals.

The achievements in macro indicators have been backed, by several pioneering landmark initiatives of my Government, with a view to ensuring Universal Health Care. The starting of the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation in 1994; initiating maternal and child health initiatives, like 24 hour service at Primary Health Centres (PHCs); starting of one 30 bedded PHC in each block; providing adequate blood banks; creating facilities for night caesarean operations; opening neonatal stabilisation and intensive care units; and upgrading capacity for comprehensive obstetric and neonatal care; birth companion programme; maternal audits; and universal immunisation programme, are some among them. In addition to consolidating the initiatives and the programmes,

which are already being successfully implemented, the State has also launched, the menstrual hygiene programme; and the modified, Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme. Our focus now, is to provide equal attention to public health, and prevention of diseases. 385 Mobile Medical Units have been upgraded as 'Hospitals on Wheels', at a cost of 40 crore rupees, with necessary additional manpower, laboratory facilities and other diagnostic equipment, to provide high quality medical care, with focus on Mother and Child Health Services; Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, covering all the remote villages and hamlets in Tamil Nadu.

It is my endeavour to make available, all procedures, techniques and medical skills, universally, to all the people of the State, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

Surgeries such as Liver Transplantation, Renal Transplantation, including post transplant procedure for immunosuppressant therapy; Bone marrow transplantation; Cochlear implantation, and stem cell transplantation, costing more than 1.50 lakh rupees and ranging from 3 lakh rupees to 22 lakh rupees are beyond the means of a large segment of people. Hospitals approved under the

Health Insurance Scheme cannot also be compelled to perform the surgeries within a cost of 1.50 lakh rupees. My Government has, therefore, announced the creation of a Corpus Fund of 10 crore rupees, to help the needy and poor people, especially children, who have to undergo such expensive surgeries. The extra cost of the surgery, exceeding the eligible amount of 1.50 lakh rupees per annum, will be met from this Corpus Fund. The entire cost of specialized surgery will be borne by the Insurance Company, up to 1.50 lakh rupees and the remaining amount will be met from the Corpus Fund. All such cases are cleared by an Expert Committee.

In Tamil Nadu, at any given point of time, there are several hundred patients admitted to various hospitals, with Blood Cancer and Thalasaemia. Across the world, matching stem cells help over 60% of such patients to live normally. In the absence of an Indian stem cell bank, Indian patients, if lucky to find a match, have to import the same at a cost of over 25 lakh rupees. To ensure access to patients with Blood Cancer and Thalasaemia, my Government has sanctioned a first of its kind cord banking system, with a grant of 9 crore rupees to create a cord bank under Public Private Partnership. Under this scheme, 3000 cord blood donations would

be collected and processed, and patients referred by the Government hospitals; Government employees and their dependents; and patients under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance scheme would be given the units free of charge. This will greatly benefit Blood Cancer and Thalasaemia patients.

One important aspect that has hitherto been overlooked, is the provision of palliative care. Palliative care is a specialized area of healthcare, that focuses on relieving and preventing the suffering of patients. Caregivers are often neglected. It includes care of the patient and family; pain and symptom management; disease-modifying treatments; psychological, social and spiritual support, and bereavement support.

Home services inclusive of hydration, dressing, enema, ascites tapping, maggot removal, pressure sore dressing, management with homemade diapers, sponge bath, eye care, and oral care are provided by a team of personnel with a proper protocol for clinical treatment. This service to give a dignified existence prior to death, was hitherto missing from our system.

Realising the importance of introducing this approach to ameliorate the suffering of terminally

ill cancer patients, a Pilot Project was initiated in February, 2012, in one block each, in the districts of Kancheepuram, Tiruchirapalli, Tiruvallur and Villupuram, covering 169 panchayats and a population of around 4.2 lakhs.

Both ambulant and bedridden patients who needed pain and palliative care, and 196 terminally ill patients were given this facility in Elapuram Block; 296 in Kancheepuram Block; 198 in Koliyanur Block; and 156 in Andhanallur Block, enabling them to get treated in their homes in the villages.

6000 rupees per patient was provided, for covering the cost of drugs, dressings, procedures, mobility for the team, minimal manpower of doctors, nurses, and field staff with specialist care wherever needed.

Considering the success of the pilot initiative, I have announced 15 crore rupees for this scheme to be extended to all the Districts of the State.

It was brought to my notice by Dr.Shantha that, the Cancer Institute has applied for upgradation to the status of a Centre of Excellence, and that the proposal was pending with the Union Government for approval. I have written to the Prime Minister of India, regarding the pending request of the Cancer Institute, considering the excellent service rendered for over 3 decades, even while functioning as an NGO; that its status should no more be that of a

Tertiary Cancer Institute; but should be elevated to the status of a "Centre of Excellence – an Autonomous National Cancer Research Institute". We are awaiting the approval of the present Government of India. If the approval fails to materialize, I solemnly assure Dr. Shanta the next year there will be a friendly Government at the Centre that will immediately afford necessary approval for recognition of the Cancer Institute as a Centre of Excellence.

The Institute has several other firsts to its credit. These include the first Cobalt-60 Radiation therapy unit - It was the first such unit in Asia; the first Department of Nuclear Medical Oncology in 1956; Pediatric oncology in 1960; the first centre in India to be selected as a 'Regional Cancer Centre' for cancer treatment and research by the Government of India, 1975; introducing Blood Component Therapy in 1978; the first centre to introduce the concept of Oncology and establishing the Super Specialty College of Oncologic Sciences, recognized by the Madras University, and Dr. MGR Medical University in 1984; and the first in the country to start M.Phil Psycho-oncology in August 2011. I wish the firsts continue in the bejewelled tradition of this great institute.

The Cancer Institute lives up to its motto: "With humanity and in wisdom." It has journeyed through

60 years, fighting odds, battling vicissitudes and uncertainties, and continues to hold aloft its guiding mantra, "Service to All."

This is a place of miracles. The doctors and the staff have to tread softly, for they tread on hopes, fear and anxiety of families. They accomplish wonders with their professional skills. Every life saved from the jaws of death, is a living miracle; a reminder to us that every human being has a right to live, and succeed in his / her battle against whatever life threatening diseases threaten his/her existence. My Government is very conscious of such needs, and endeavours to ensure that state-of-the-art equipment and medical skills are made available to the needy.

"He who has health has hope; and he who has hope has everything", says an Arabic proverb. The Cancer Institute is a provider of both and I wish and envision the Institute and all the dedicated staff working here a happy cruise to success in their crusade against cancer.

On this memorable occasion, I have pleasure in announcing that the Government of Tamil Nadu will give a special grant of Five Crore rupees for the building of the Diamond Jubilee to be constructed by the Cancer Institute.

Thank you.

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CONVOCATION ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE 155TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS ON 17.8.2013.

'MISSION -- MAKE TAMIL NADU GLOBAL HUB OF HIGHER EDUCATION'

I am greatly honoured to be part of this scintillating event that marks a major academic milestone in your life, as you step out into the world from the portals of this University, fortified with the knowledge you have been endowed with during your time here. It is also a special event for the University as it sends forth its students equipped with the spirit of this institution. The overwhelming ceremonial aura of this Annual Convocation is tremendously energizing and bears testimony to the 156 year old grand tradition of one of the oldest universities of the Country – the University of Madras. A Convocation is the occasion when all

the hard work and midnight toil put in around the years is crystallised and is a formal recognition that you are ready to move forward in channelizing your energies towards being a complete entity in Society, adapting fearlessly and energetically to changing times. It is a moment of celebration for students and their parents who have transcended odds and striven hard to reach here. For the teachers who are waiting to witness these scholars pass out it is an endorsement of their hard work and a validation of the vocation they chose.

The University of Madras has lived up to the ideals ordained in its creation since its inception and I am sure it will continue to catalyze the flowering of human personality as well as function as a reservoir from which spring streams of innovation and imagination, of dynamism in thought and action.

The glorious history of this institution is a reminder of the journey traversed so far and will serve to enlighten future generations. The University of Madras was established in response to the demand of the time. The request for an institution of higher learning originated from the people of the Madras Presidency, in a public petition signed and submitted to Lord George Elphinstone, the then Governor of Madras. Sir Charles Wood's epoch-making Dispatch of 1854 cleared the path for the formation of the Universities of Calcutta, Bombay

and Madras. The University Act, Act No. II of 1857, was passed by the Legislative Council and received the Governor- General's assent on the 24th January, 1857. The Act emphasised that the University was to be an imperial university. As a sequel, the University of Madras, organized on the model of the London University, was incorporated on the 5th September, 1857, by an Act of the Legislative Council of India. The Government's intention was to create a University which would cater to the needs of the nobility and upper classes of India.

Justice Sir Christopher Rawlinson was the first Vice-Chancellor of the University. In 1904, Sir Subramania Iyer became the first Indian to be made the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras. Sir Raghupati Venkataratnam Nayudu was the first elected Vice Chancellor. The University of Madras was the first to introduce autonomous colleges within the University system in 1978-79. Since then, 27 out of the 159 affiliated institutions have become autonomous. The tiny star which appeared in 1857 has now grown into a super nova churning out treasures of enlightened and inspired citizens. This institution has an academic heritage, created and nurtured by stalwarts and visionaries.

The establishment of the University of Madras proved to be a tool of history, initiating a process quite independent of the original intention of the

British to create an aristocratic institution and ultimately became directly contradictory to it. It has endeavoured to create an open and secular system and seeks to deliberately incorporate inclusiveness into the fabric of education. It has broken the shackles of the 'Ivory tower' and has thrown open the gates of the once 'elitist institution' to the common people. The University of Madras has been carefully accomplishing the task of synthesizing academic standards with social relevance to create ignited minds ready to take up enterprising careers and raring to reform the ills threatening our Society. The architectural beauty of the impressive Indo-Saracenic buildings of the University and the charm of the premises add to the character of this institution. This in itself has a potent influence on the students.

Universities are temples of knowledge wherein students are initiated as novices into the mysteries of knowledge. They have frequently been regarded as key institutions in processes of social change and development. The most explicit role they have been allocated is the production of highly skilled labour and research output to meet perceived economic ends. Universities do not only respond to Society's needs, they contribute to its evolution. Universities in Tamil Nadu are now finding themselves at the very centre of development and are entrusted with the task of training and harnessing vital human resources

essential for catapulting Tamil Nadu to the numero uno status in the country.

The University of Madras has pegged the stakes high for its students and the alumni have distinguished themselves in various fields of excellence in India and abroad and brought laurels to their Alma Mater. The Madras University boasts of many stalwarts as its alumni. It has produced two Nobel laureates, - Sir C V Raman who won the Nobel prize for Physics in 1930 and Dr S Chandrasekar in 1983, and two Presidents of India - Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, to name a few. The list however is endless with hundreds of faculty members and students proving their mettle both in India and abroad. They are all shining examples for the young people here to emulate. You need to learn from the dedication, scholarly pursuit and will to succeed of these eminent personalities.

Education is a powerful tool for human progress and empowerment. It is also a strong driver of social thinking and transformation. True education should emphasise achievement of human resource development in its entirety and thereby augment the Nation's richest asset. Imparting ethical values, as a significant constituent of education, therefore, is no longer merely obligatory but a constitutional imperative, essential for the

development and realization of the full potential of the human person. Socrates had said and I quote: "*Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel*" (unquote). The atmosphere in this hall today is vibrant and I believe that many a flame has been kindled by this great institution.

An ancient Chinese proverb says,

"If you are thinking one year ahead, plant rice

If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant trees

If you are thinking 100 years ahead, educate the people."

My Government has done all three. I am committed to providing good governance now, in the years ahead, the decades to come and to implementing lasting reforms that generations will speak of. The mission of my Government is to promote Human Resource Development through self-actualized Institutions producing high quality professionals in sufficient numbers and to make Tamil Nadu a global hub for University Education. I envision that Institutions of Higher Education emerge as Centres of Innovation, Excellence and Development - that world-class education is offered to our youth in an all-encompassing and inclusive system. The Higher Education sector in Tamil Nadu is moving at an accelerated pace to meet

the demands of the century, in terms of research and development and many schemes have been implemented with this in view. For example,

i. Smart Classrooms with Video- Conferencing facilities have been established in 10 universities at a cost of 2 crore rupees.

ii. Foreign language laboratories have been established in 10 universities at a cost of 1.5 crore rupees for enhancing the language skills of students in English, Chinese, Japanese, German etc.,

iii. Entrepreneurship cum Skill Development Centres have been established at a cost of 2 crore rupees in 10 Universities, to develop the entrepreneurial skills of students for self employment.

iv. To promote gaining from sharing of expertise by reputed professors, a scheme of inviting them from foreign universities has been introduced in 10 Universities at a cost of 1 crore rupees.

v. Curriculum Development Cells have been established in 10 Universities at a cost of 10 crore rupees, to restructure curricula on par with global standards

vi. 11 new Arts and Science Colleges have been opened during 2011-2012 and another 11 colleges during 2012-2013, in various Districts, in an effort to equip rural youth with career skills and improve their employability.

vii. 10 Polytechnic Colleges and 2 Engineering Colleges have been started in a move to promote professional education in rural pockets and ensure that youth in the far flung backward Districts are on par with their counterparts in big cities.

viii. Business Collaboration Centres have been started in 6 Universities of which the University of Madras is one, for co-ordinating Universities, leading Industries and other business organizations in the country and abroad.

ix. A widely acclaimed move by my Government is the Study Abroad Programme for Faculty and Students which has commenced with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education with the British Council. 14 students and 3 faculty members have been selected to study one semester in Universities in the United Kingdom from September 2013 to January 2014.

x. Centres for Technical and Academic Writing have been established in the University of Madras and 8 other Universities in the State. These Centres would develop the skills of students in writing academic reports and drafting other forms of written communication.

xi. Incubation and Technology Transfer Centres have been established in the University of Madras and 8 other Universities in the State.

xii. Centres for Multimodal Material Production for the Differently-Abled have been established in the University of Madras and 9 other Universities in the State.

xiii. Post Graduate Centres of Excellence have been established in this University and 9 other Universities in the State.

xiv. Soft Skill Centres have been established in 30 Colleges under 5 Universities including the University of Madras.

xv. The free laptop computer scheme, which is a flagship scheme of my Government, was devised bearing in mind that our students must not be left lagging behind in the use of modern technology in this age of the internet and has placed our students a head above their peers in other parts of the country. So far 5,45,402 college students have received their laptop computers.

This is only an overview of the efforts taken by my Government to raise the scales of development on the higher education front. We must direct our energies towards developing our Universities to meet global benchmarks. Universities should be prime movers of change. A more just, humane, and sustainable Society requires the development in each of our students of a personal moral compass and a commitment to ethical decision making.

It is necessary not merely to achieve personal excellence, but also to enable the Nation to rise to higher levels of endeavour and achievement. Here, I would like to quote Benjamin Franklin who said, “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.” Learning should be a two-way process and should involve the intellect and heart of the student and the faculty. Social commitment on the part of the educationists cannot be overlooked.

As you set out on the next steps of your journey, and as you cross many more milestones that mark your achievements, I am sure you will proudly recall the value of the opportunities that the University of Madras gave you, and how it empowered you to achieve success. With confidence, you leave this place, ready and determined to do your part in the never-ending quest to advance peace, prosperity and justice in your environment, to choose your own paths, to risk failure, to further the boundaries of knowledge, and to shine forth as worthy citizens of this great Nation. Whichever path you choose, and whichever gates you pass through, I wish you safety, good guidance, and truthfulness. I wish that you may be guided wisely through the

tunnels and labyrinths of life and that you find the still centre of your purpose and your being - untarnished, persistent, illuminated and brightly glowing.

On this auspicious occasion, I urge you to solemnly reaffirm the ideals of the University and dedicate yourselves wholeheartedly to the task of building a resurgent Nation of high idealism and noble endeavours on the foundation of knowledge and moral values. I invoke upon each one of you, the blessings of the Almighty, your parents, your teachers and all the elders gathered here.

Thank you.

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CONVOCATION ADDRESS DELIVERED DURING THE SILVER JUBILEE CONVOCATION OF THE TAMIL NADU DR MGR MEDICAL UNIVERSITY ON 20.8.2013

TAMIL NADU HAS PRIDE OF PLACE IN NATIONAL HEALTH SCENE

Your Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor,

The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University – Dr. K. Rosaiah Garu,

Thiru. K.C. Veeramani, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Pro-Chancellor,

Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Dr. D.Shantharam, Vice Chancellor,

Dr. J.Radhakrishnan, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department,

Dr. C.Vamsadhara, Director of Medical Education,

Dr. S.Paranjothi, Director of Medical & Rural Health Services,

Members of the Faculty,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Students,

It is a privilege to be part of this magnificent event– the Silver Jubilee Convocation, to witness this inspiring moment, when you publicly acknowledge the profound responsibilities that await you, and declare your commitment to the practice of medicine, care of patients and advancement of humanity. I am here to commend and join you, in the celebration of this most noble commitment. It is a tradition which emphasizes the perseverance of the Faculty, students, families and friends, who are all intertwined and indispensable, in the academic journey our students have chosen to undertake. Here I behold the future promise of the health of my people of Tamil Nadu. You have come into this campus full of promise and altruism, replete with superior academic ability, and lives characterized by a commitment of service to

others. As you swear by the Oath of Hippocrates, and prepare to cross the threshold of this University, invigorated by the zeal and spirit imparted, remember, that you are being sent out on a mission – a mission to heal. Healing is an art as much as a science, and I am sure you will maintain fidelity to this mission.

I have had the opportunity of delivering the Chief Guest's Address on the occasion of the Second, Twelfth and Twenty Second Convocations of this University, and it is a matter of pride to be here again, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Convocation. The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University is committed to excellence and has been aptly named after the personality par excellence, Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. The University is emerging as a veritable powerhouse for harnessing top quality health professionals, and as a hub of biomedical research. As the second largest Medical University in India, and the regulatory body for Medical, Dental, Indian Medicine and Allied Health Courses in the State of Tamil Nadu, this University has been spearheading plans and ambitions to attain world standards in medical education. I am happy to know that the University is in the process of using a more transparent, reliable and fair system of evaluation in medical, para medical, graduate and post graduate courses. Such innovations should

illumine the direction of the University towards exploring new paradigms in medical education in Tamil Nadu.

The role of the University in integrating the development of health manpower, with relevance to the real health needs and demands of the people of the State, has become accentuated in the present context. This should be the focus and direction of the education system. The pedagogic shift from the traditional approach to a need-based approach has become inevitable. The University should aim at creating socially-conscious health professionals, mindful of the great task ahead of them. It should be your commitment to create the health care delivery system of the future, to educate the workforce of tomorrow, to establish an ideal learning environment, to focus on research endeavours, and consequently make a global impact. Medical education needs to be planned and implemented, with full awareness of the aims and demands of the health care services, including consistent integration of the sciences of medical practice. Every medical graduate should appreciate that learning is a continuous process, and knowledge should be periodically updated. The other important factor is for the University to have a community, industry and business interface, and to have exchange and collaborative linkages with other institutions.

There is no greater priority for the University, than to produce doctors, who possess high order professional skills, and are imbued with a sense of dedication, and public service. The menace posed by the corrosive commercialisation of medical education has to be warded off, and efforts should be made to ensure maintenance of standards, and check the growth of substandard medical colleges.

Tamil Nadu has the pride of place in the National health scene and has been receiving plaudits for its extraordinary performance in various indicators. I have always maintained that my highest priority remains the health of my people. Since my Government assumed office in 2011, the budget for Health has seen a 67 % increase reflecting my Government's priorities. The allocation in the current year is 6511 crore rupees. Even in the field of Medical education, in the current academic year alone, we were able to get 410 additional MBBS seats in Government Medical Colleges, taking the overall seats in Government Medical Colleges from 2145 to 2555 this year. This is a result of the persistent efforts invested in by my Government. I have stood rock-firm in protecting the rights of my State and the interests of the students, in opposing the introduction of the Common National Entrance cum Eligibility Test which was eventually decided in the Supreme Court in favour of our Government's consistent stand.

I take pleasure in stating that Tamil Nadu is also one of the best performing States and has already achieved the National Rural Health Mission / Reproductive Child Health goals. The current Infant Mortality Rate of the State is 22 according to the Sample Registration System of 2011, which is well below the national target of 30 per 1000 live births. Against the national target of 100 per lakh live births for the Maternal Mortality Rate, the State has already achieved a Maternal Mortality Rate of 73 per lakh live births. The State has also achieved replacement level and the current Total Fertility Rate is 1.7 which is the lowest in the Country. We have won encomiums from the Union Planning Commission, and many other independent review missions for our performance, and the best accolade received is from the people. This has been made possible because of the concordant health policy of my Government, which is committed to addressing the health needs of the people in a holistic manner. The actualization of the policy and transformation into services is credited to the quality human resources delivered by the various institutions affiliated to the University.

Let me also take this opportunity to highlight some of the schemes initiated by the Government of Tamil Nadu under my leadership. The CEMoNC, that is, the Comprehensive Emergency Maternal and Newborn Care scheme has been initiated successfully

throughout Tamil Nadu, to bring down the Maternal Mortality Rate. LSAS, that is, Life Saving Anaesthetic Skills for Emergency Obstetric Care is another Intensive 24 week training programme, instituted for Graduate doctors to tackle Obstetric emergencies.

The health of women has been my foremost priority. Improvement of facilities for institutional delivery and prevention of maternal and infant mortality has been fired into action. After I assumed charge as Chief Minister for the 3rd time in 2011, I have increased the financial assistance under the revised Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme from 6,000 rupees given earlier to 12,000 rupees to be given to pregnant women from poor families as maternal assistance. This has incentivised ante natal care vaccination, and helped in encouraging institutional deliveries, which are now around 99% - the highest in the Country. On an average, 6 lakh women benefit from the scheme every year. Cancer screening of the breast and cervix has been launched in all the 32 Districts of the State. Aggressive media campaigning is being done to encourage all reproductive age group women to come forward to get screened for cancer of the breast and cervix.

To ensure coverage of patients with Blood Cancer and Thalasaemia, my Government has sanctioned a first-of-its-kind cord banking system, with a grant of 9 crore rupees to create a Cord Bank under Public

Private Partnership. Under this scheme, 3000 cord blood donations would be collected and processed. Patients referred by the Government hospitals, Government employees and their dependents, and patients under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance scheme would be given units free of charge. This will greatly benefit Blood Cancer and Thalasaemia patients. Tamil Nadu was among the first States that recognised Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in the Country. Our State's contribution in identifying Diabetes at an early stage has been tremendous. The first Independent Department of Diabetology was established at the Madras Medical College. To tackle this disease, rigorous propaganda has been launched through audio and visual media to educate the public about lifestyle modification and the need for a healthy diet.

Progress and universal coverage in the Health Sector is a key to Tamil Nadu's prominence as the numero-uno State in the Country, since the State's productivity depends on the health and well-being of its people.With this principle in mind, my Government is committed to dedicating the building at Omandurar Estate as a multi-specialty hospital to meet the health needs of the common people by offering the best possible yet affordable treatment. A medical college will also be started to augment

the number of physicians and create ‘health assets’. Post Graduate courses will be offered to create more specialists. Chennai is all set to become the ‘Health Capital of India’.

My Government is focused on addressing the preventive, promotive and basic curative health care needs of the people of the State through a network of 8706 Health sub centres, 1614 Primary Health Centres, 267 Secondary Care Hospitals, and 19 Government Medical Colleges, with 43 tertiary hospitals attached to them. These are in addition to the private medical facilities with which, under the Chief Minister’s Comprehensive Health Insurance scheme, we are able to provide access to the poor to those facilities also. The inflow of insurance funds to the Government Hospitals helps to constantly improve their infrastructure. So far in the past 2 years, 4.16 lakh persons have benefited under the Scheme for an insurance coverage of 912 crore rupees, of whom 1.54 lakh beneficiaries have been treated in Government hospitals for an insurance coverage of 318 crore rupees. The best practice in Blood bank administration is also credited to Tamil Nadu, where blood storage centres are not only fully functional, but also have strong linkages with various health units.

Keeping pace with the latest advances in the medical field, as the plethora of medical conditions

in health care is becoming broader; the need for specialists in sub specialties and super specialties is growing today. Earlier, Medical Graduates were leaving the Country to obtain specialized training in their chosen subjects. Now the situation has changed and I am proud to be able to inform all concerned that all their training is being offered by this University. This is the first University in India to offer Fellowship programmes in Medical, Surgical and Dental sub and super specialties. Many of these Post-Doctoral fellowship students, after successful completion of their training, are offering professional health care to our people. It is a matter of great pride that students from neighbouring countries are also keen on enrolling in our Fellowship Training Programmes.

This place attracts the best talent and the brightest minds. Many aspire to get here but only a few are chosen. You have been chosen and that, in itself, is a remarkable achievement. This day is the culmination of an extraordinary amount of inspiration, intelligence, and hard work. Each one of you is idealistic and well motivated, and you have a mental image of being a physician, even though you may not yet know what this entails. You have been given the tremendous responsibility of caring - Listening, showing kindness, warmth and sensitivity to the patient and his or her family's needs, in addition to excellent clinical skills---these

are the hallmarks of a caring physician. The health of the poorest person can have an impact on the health of the State. Caring for that person should be your concern, for it is my concern too – a mission close to my heart. Throughout your education, you have prepared to embark on your professional journey to undertake that CARE.

It is a high and noble calling. You are all called upon to make sacrifices, to make commitments, and to be present at the happiest and saddest moments in people's lives. When it comes to service, you provide that to your communities, and beyond, your efforts must be selfless and mindful of those most in need. It is a great responsibility indeed, but the powerful translation of this responsibility into a privilege will come, when you see the grateful smile of a patient. This is a memorable occasion in your life, as you embark upon the journey of healing. I offer you my warmest congratulations. May the purity of thought in your minds, direct your hands, and guide your hearts, as you begin a life of service to others.

Thank you.

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SPEECH DELIVERED DURING THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTES RESOLUTION CENTRE AND LAYING FOUNDATION STONE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK OF MADRAS HIGH COURT ON 20.8.2013

CHIEF MINISTER REITERATES CONCERN FOR WOMEN, GIRL CHILDREN

Your Lordship Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Sathasivam, Chief Justice of India / Patron –in-Chief, National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi,

Hon'ble Mr. Justice F.M. Ibrahim Kalifulla, Judge, Supreme Court of India,

Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.K. Agrawal, Acting Chief Justice and soon to beChief Justice of High Court of Madras,

Mr. K.P. Munusamy, Hon’ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts & Prisons, Government of Tamil Nadu,

Hon’ble Mrs. Justice R. Banumathi, Executive Chairperson, Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority, Chennai and soon to be Chief Justice of High Court of Jharkhand,

Hon’ble Mrs. Justice Chitra Venkataraman,

Executive Chairperson, Union Territory of Pondicherry Legal Services Authority, Puducherry,

Hon’ble Mr. Justice M. Jaichandren, Chairman,

Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre, High Court, Madras,

Hon’ble Mr. Justice S. Rajeswaran, Chairman,

High Court Building Committee, High Court, Madras,

Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu

Mrs. Sheela Balakrishnan,

Mr. A.L. Somayaji, Advocate General of Tamil Nadu,

Mrs. Saraswathi Sathasivam and Mrs. Kalifulla,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to participate in this function along with the Lordship the Chief Justice of India, Justice Sathasivam, because he is a true son of the soil of Tamil Nadu and Justice Sathasivam has made all of us proud by becoming the first step from Tamil Nadu to attain the first of the Chief Justice of India. Indeed not only the people of Tamil Nadu, not only the Tamils living in Tamil Nadu, but Tamils living all over the world are proud of Justice Sathasivam, who is our very own person sitting in the exhaustive position of Chief Justice of India.

I am glad to participate in the inauguration of the Alternative Disputes Resolution Centre in the Madras High Court campus. I am happy to have sanctioned an amount of 3.20 crore rupees from the State fund towards the construction of this magnificent building.

The growing population, increasing awareness of rights, and the abiding confidence of the people in the judiciary have witnessed a tremendous spurt in litigation. However, in the Indian context, lack of awareness of legal provisions, mystifying legal terms, delays in disposal and the prohibitive cost of litigation are some of the barriers in the way of accessing justice. The cost of litigation has increased exponentially over time, and the ability of the marginalized sections to avail of their constitutional right to legal remedies is

seriously hampered by their lack of resources. There are a lot of litigants clamouring for speedy justice. But the elements of judiciousness, fairness, equality and compassion cannot be allowed to be sacrificed for the sake of expeditious disposal. Through careful thought and precise planning, the Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanism has been put in place and has been given legal validity. ADR is now an integral part of modern legal practice and jurisprudence. This will go a long way in weeding out the impediments to securing universal justice.

The enactment of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996, was a giant stride which gave statutory recognition to the Disputes resolution mechanism. Further, by amending Section 89 in the Civil Procedure Code, such mechanisms have gained strategic importance. The Supreme Court, in its landmark judgment in the case of Salem Advocates Bar Association, Tamil Nadu versus Union of India in 2005, has endorsed and given heightened impetus to the court – annexed Alternative Disputes Resolution methods. Under Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, judges can direct the parties in civil proceedings to resort to methods such as arbitration, conciliation, mediation and settlement through

‘Lok Adalats’ - when it is perceived that the Disputes can be resolved in a co-operative and non-adversarial manner. This provision is a major systemic improvement in the access to justice, and reflects an exemplar shift in the delivery of legal services, which is indeed laudable.

The idea of resolving matters outside a court room in an orderly, law abiding manner is not unknown to our Society. It has been prevalent in Indian Society from time immemorial. Mediation has been practised by our village elders in the ‘Panchayat system’. The Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanism mirrors a metaphorical bridge to this indigenous system.

ADR operates on the principle of consensus, where all perspectives are discussed until a compromise that is acceptable to all sides is reached. It is a forum for decision making after thoughtful analysis and sensitive negotiation. It eliminates the dissenting mentality, and has clearly passed the test of time. Alternative Disputes Resolution does not merely apply fastidious rules, but takes into consideration the human condition and the need for flexibility in dealing with reality. It allows for greater creativity in solutions, affords an opportunity for mending of relationships and seeks to replace animosity with cordiality.

The main methods of Alternative Disputes Resolution are – Negotiation, Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration.

The Alternative Disputes Resolution mechanism is a pragmatic tool in solving new generation familial conflicts. The surge of matrimonial disputes in court is a poignant reminder of the ills that plague the fabric of relationships in the family. Litigation — whether for divorce, maintenance, alimony, child custody or any other matrimonial cause — should cease to be viewed in terms of failure or success of legal action. The amicable settlement of family conflicts is a social therapy.

In any conflict it is the woman who encounters an uphill struggle to realize her rights to equality and dignity. Women in India face myriad cultural challenges that impede their social advancement. Women throughout the world face systematic gender-based discrimination and are regularly denied the right to life and security of person, recourse to legal rights, health care, education, employment, inheritance, and freedom of movement. This is an area quite close to my heart. I have, during my previous tenures as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, introduced a number of novel schemes for women and female children which have won accolades in our Country and abroad. The flagship schemes of my Government

are – the Girl Child Protection Scheme; the 4-gram gold coin for the Thirumangalyam and 50,000 rupees grant for the marriage of impoverished women; Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme; Orphan Girls' Marriage Assistance Scheme; Inter-caste Marriage Assistance Scheme; financial assistance to young destitute girls for pursuing higher education; cradle baby scheme for girl children to prevent infanticide – this list is not exhaustive.

All the initiatives mooted by my Government have been formulated keeping in mind the disadvantaged and weaker sections of Society. I have strongly condemned all kinds of crimes perpetrated against women and sought to improve their livelihood opportunities, so that they are empowered financially and socially, in order to stand up against any injustice meted out to them. Another critical aspect of this work is to strengthen the leadership opportunities of marginalized women, by equipping them with a voice to articulate the problems that affect their lives; craft solutions that help solve these problems; and contribute to practical, legal and policy changes that advance women's rights and achieve a broader and more meaningful social justice. As a prologue to the above mandate, the Women Self-help Groups, formed with the assistance of

my Government, have emerged as an indomitable force, that has transformed the status of women, and liberated them from discriminatory codes and cultural stigma. This is only the beginning - the best is yet to come.

The establishment of All-Women Police Stations was pioneered by my Government in 1992. This was specifically aimed at tackling and giving an impetus to investigation in crimes against women, and to respond swiftly to complaints given by women. It has been a landmark achievement in the path of women empowerment in Tamil Nadu and has set the beacon for other States to follow. In 2002, I had made provision for tough punishments for crimes against women under the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act. I have ordered that all cases relating to sexual violence should be treated as grave crimes and investigation would be carried out by Police Inspectors and would be directly supervised by Deputy Superintendents of Police.

The poor, marginalized and vulnerable live in a parallel world where economic poverty is structurally, politically and socially defined. Fighting poverty also means investing in people's capacity to participate meaningfully in the economy, access gainful livelihood and improve the quality of their lives. I have given deep thought to this concept, and

have been devising Government schemes with this in mind – with pro-poor initiatives and inclusive strategies, to improve their economic well-being. At the heart of the idea of empowering the poor, lies the goal of not only alleviation of poverty, but its ultimate elimination. It is my desire to witness this social change of inclusion and equity that is snowballing into a massive transformation. A desire to achieve for my people, the highest attainable standard of health, adequate housing, education, economic opportunities and social security for a dignified life remains at the core of all my policies.

It is a collective responsibility to ensure that the cherished constitutional entitlements reach the poorest of the poor. Today's inauguration has strengthened the faith that all our initiatives towards this goal have started taking root, and I am confident we will witness the glory of its abundant fruits in the years to come.

Thank you.

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SPEECH AT THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATION COUNCIL AT NEW DELHI ON 23.9.2013

CHIEF MINISTER RAPS CENTRE FOR SETTING ASIDE DETENTION ORDERS

"Hon'ble Prime Minister,

Hon'ble Union Ministers,

Hon'ble Chief Ministers of other States and

Union Territories and other dignitaries

We have all gathered here today for the 16th Meeting of the National Integration Council, after a gap of nearly two years. For a country that is just 67 years young, which attained independence from the British Raj against the background of the gut wrenching violence of Partition that the departing British bequeathed to us, we have struggled to make our democracy work. Despite the challenges of pluralism, multi-ethnic divides and the schisms of caste, compounded by post Independence dangers namely, extremism, separatism and terrorism, we have largely been successful in holding on to our political freedom and the democratic values enshrined in our Constitution, standing out and being globally

recognized as the most successful secular democracy in the non Western world.

Despite this impressive record, a multitude of divisive forces are creating fault lines in the very fabric that binds our Nation and are threatening to abort her bid to reach the status of a superpower. Inimical external forces and misguided anti-social elements within the Country have always tried to add to our internal troubles. Some of the unrest is also fuelled by socio-economic factors. Unequal distribution of the benefits of economic growth with the perception that many sections of Society have been left behind, marginalized and even unfairly exploited by those who have prospered have sharpened social divisions. The sharp deceleration of economic growth in the recent past and the persistent high inflation caused in substantial measure by the gross macro-economic mismanagement of the UPA Government at the Centre have also no doubt contributed to social tensions.

The need of the hour is to develop an Indian identity that is founded on a scientific temper, social and economic equality, and a melding of our diverse faiths and cultural practices, which will truly integrate our diversity into unity. It seems to me that we must reinforce such Pan Indian values by using a forum like the National Integration

Council to effectively scotch the fissiparous forces that seek to create fissures in our democratic edifice.

The first and most vital function of the State is the maintenance of public order and peace in Society and ensuring the protection of its citizens. It is precisely for this reason that I have adopted a growth model for Tamil Nadu that seeks to achieve development through inclusive growth and thereby rid Society of inner tensions that may surface in the form of communal tensions or extremism or some other form of disaffection. The Vision for Tamil Nadu for 2023 is to become India's most prosperous and progressive State with no poverty, where its people enjoy all the basic services of a modern Society and live in harmonious engagement with the environment and with the rest of the world. Not only are we targeting high growth, but we also seek to exhibit a highly inclusive growth pattern.

The ability of my Government to understand and effectively articulate the just and fair sentiments of the people of the State on critical issues has been one of the important reasons for the proper maintenance of public order in Tamil Nadu. This requires the State Government at the highest level to be in tune with the concerns and aspirations of its people. It also requires the

administration at the local level to be sensitive and with an ear to the ground. District Administration in Tamil Nadu is run in this manner, thanks to close supervision and monitoring from above and the positive response to public expectation from below.

My Government in Tamil Nadu has taken several proactive steps to promote communal harmony. Special attention is given to the welfare of Minorities through the Directorate of Minorities Welfare, the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation and the Tamil Nadu Minorities Commission. A number of initiatives on communal harmony are taken amongst the youth by organizing competitions and youth festivals. Community leaders and NGOs are encouraged to participate in the celebration of festivals of other religions and communities. The Government of Tamil Nadu gives assistance for pilgrimages to Mecca, Jerusalem, Manasarovar and Mukthinath. I may state with pride that our record in maintaining communal harmony has been impeccable.

So far as the maintenance of Law and Order is concerned, I am proud to inform this august gathering that Tamil Nadu has largely been free of communal, left wing extremist, and religious fundamentalist violence. This is largely because I have provided a

free hand and uncompromising support to the Police Force in maintaining Law and Order. Tamil Nadu now has a near perfect record of maintenance of law and order and is spoken of nationally as a haven of peace and tranquillity.

My Government has made it clear that it will not spare anyone who tries to whip up communal passions and create caste tensions and the Police have been given a clear mandate to curb such activities with an iron hand. Activities of communal organizations of both communities are kept under close watch by a Special Wing in the State Intelligence. Inflammatory and provocative speeches, pamphlets, audio and video CDs and other reproductions are acted against promptly. Fundamentalist organizations like Al Umma and All India Jihad Committee have been banned in the State. Activities of erstwhile SIMI elements are being carefully monitored. Preventive measures including the setting up of permanent peace committees in sensitive places, adequate precautionary measures during important festivals and for important places of worship and effective use of the security proceedings provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code and Preventive Detention laws have helped the State avoid any serious incidents of violence. In this context, I wish to state that the use of Preventive Detention laws by the State Government

is done, keeping foremost in mind the interest of preserving Public Order. The State has been very judicious in the use of these laws since they deal with the personal liberty of citizens. Of late, there is a noticeable and unwelcome development wherein the Government of India, for ostensibly political considerations, is setting aside orders issued by the State Government. We consider that this is an unnecessary encroachment upon the State's powers and will seriously compromise the maintenance of Public Order.

The maintenance of Law and Order in the Country is the fundamental responsibility of the State Governments, but it is an exercise that requires functional co-operation and understanding between the Central Government and the State Governments and presupposes a relationship based on equality, namely, that the States are equal partners with the Centre in protecting the Nation from internal strife. However, I note that of late, the Government of India has been increasingly taking unilateral steps and creating top down structures and parallel authorities that encroach upon the constitutional domain of the State Government. This is an ill-advised and counter-productive approach, best illustrated by the ham-handed manner in which the National Counter Terrorism Centre was sought to be established or by

the shoddy manner in which the Communal Violence Bill has been drafted, details regarding which I have already communicated to the Government of India at the relevant time.

In the aftermath of the recent unfortunate incidents of communal violence in some parts of India, there has been a call in some quarters to enact the Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2011. I have already spelt out my strong opposition to the proposed Bill, both on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party. In my view, the proposed Bill will not meet the desired objective of curbing vociferous religiosity or preventing communal and targeted violence. Many provisions of the Bill are vaguely worded and leave themselves open to wide subjective interpretations and hence are liable to be misused. Above all, the Bill is against the constitutional scheme of distribution of powers between the Centre and the States. Clause 20 of the Bill, which gives extensive powers to the Central Government and the proposed National Authority for Communal Harmony, Justice and Reparation, is a direct assault on State autonomy. Hence, it would be extremely unwise to pose the Bill and the National Authority proposed by it as a solution to a complex problem that requires sensitive

co-operation between the Centre and the States. In fact, the remedy proposed would end up being worse than the disease itself.

A strong, efficient, well equipped and disciplined Police Force is the only answer to meeting the challenges posed by anti social elements who try to disrupt Law and Order. Realizing the imperative need to improve the staffing, infrastructure, mobility and weaponry of the Police Force, my Government has sanctioned substantially enhanced allocations.

The Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the States are keenly aware of the need for modernization of the Police Force, strengthening the Intelligence machinery and developing Police training infrastructure. All the Hon'ble Chief Ministers would also agree, mainly, it is financial constraints that stand in the way of the efforts of State Governments to modernize and upgrade the Police Force. I request the Union Government to substantially increase the levels of financial assistance for the modernization of the Police Force. **I wish to point out that the release of funds by the Government of India under the Police Modernisation Scheme to Tamil Nadu has come down drastically in 2012-2013. I am also disappointed to note that the Central share in the scheme of modernization, which was 75%, has been brought down to 60%.** I, therefore, urge that the Government of India

should come out with a refurbished National plan for the modernization of the State Police Forces and substantially step up the allocation of funds to the States.

Growing crimes and criminality, communalism, the growth of hate propaganda through the use of modern communication and information technology and other threats to the integrity of the Nation, are most effectively met by utilizing modern technology. Facilities which track, in real time, the misuse of information and communication means for intensive hate propaganda and cyber crimes require substantial investments in equipment and training of personnel. While States like Tamil Nadu are investing in this area, the Government of India can no longer shy away from its responsibility and must significantly enhance funding for such purposes.

The proactive use of the social media as an effective means of mass communication and source of correct information also needs to be focused upon. But the risks of using social media including hacking, cyber bullying and capture by anti social elements have to be mitigated through appropriate safeguards and effective monitoring and administration of such sites by trained and empowered personnel.

Gathering timely and relevant intelligence and acting on it is crucial to prevent communal

disturbances and to tackle communal situations. Tamil Nadu has a well oiled Intelligence gathering apparatus with a number of specialised wings to look after various types of threats to public order. The Tamil Nadu State Intelligence Wing is an effective and highly professional body which participates in the Subsidiary Multi Agency Centre by promptly acting on the information received by it and by sharing relevant information with the Central agencies and with other State agencies through this mechanism. The professional capabilities and strengths of the State intelligence Wing have been recognized nationally.

I think the agenda of this meeting rightly focuses on the issue of safety and security of women. I have always been passionate about securing the goal of true gender equity in Tamil Nadu. To help women overcome domestic drudgery and to become more effective participants in the labour force, my Government has taken the pioneering step of providing mixies, fans, grinders and induction stoves free of cost to women. Tamil Nadu also implements a number of schemes such as marriage assistance schemes which promote important social objectives like women's education, widow re-marriage and inter-caste marriage; hostels for working women,

service homes for destitute women, the Girl Child Protection Scheme, the scheme for distribution of free milch animals and goats; and issue of land rights in the name of women that will improve their economic security and empower women.

As a result of my efforts, Tamil Nadu is undoubtedly today, the leading State in attaining the goal of equality before law for women and has emerged as a State where women feel safe and secure. I wish to record here that my Government pioneered the setting up of All Women Police Stations in India more than 20 years ago in 1992. Today, there are All Women Police Stations in every Police sub-division in Tamil Nadu. The proportion of women in the Tamil Nadu Police Force at 17.2 per cent is the highest in the country. The punishment in cases of sexual harassment was made more severe and the burden of proof to prove innocence was transferred to the accused in cases of death or suicide resulting from sexual harassment under the amendments to the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislature by my Government in 2002.

Impelled by the need to have an even stronger legal basis to protect women from sexual violence, I have recently announced a fresh set of strong

measures for the protection of women, a bold and innovative **'Thirteen Point Plan'**. This includes formation of Fast Track Mahila Courts, appointment of women Government Lawyers, amendments to the Goondas Act, 24 hour toll free Helpline for Women - 1091, fixing responsibility on senior Police Officers to monitor such crimes and their investigations, daily hearings in the trial courts, specialized training to aid investigations, medical treatment, rehabilitation at Government cost and surveillance of public places through a strong CCTV network. I believe that these will go a long way in curbing such heinous offences that are a blot on our collective conscience.

Tamil Nadu is probably the only State in the Country which has ordered the constitution of 42 Mahila Courts to be located in all the 32 districts of the State. These measures, I am confident, will guarantee a safe and secure environment for all women in the State, including women in the workplace.

Tamil Nadu is in the forefront of nurturing inclusive growth and affirmative action. The Tamil Nadu Act 45 of 1994 is a historic legislation providing 69% reservation in education and employment for the disadvantaged sections i.e., Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. On my

initiative, it has been placed under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India so as to secure immunity from judicial scrutiny under Article 31B of the Constitution. This has gone a long way in fostering development among the disadvantaged sections.

The Government of Tamil Nadu under my leadership is determined to take all necessary steps to prevent atrocities against Adi Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes and to eliminate the abominable practice of untouchability. A Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Protection Cell headed by an Additional Director General of Police has been formed. Mobile Police squads headed by Inspectors of Police are functioning in each Police District and Commissionerate. The cases registered under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, are monitored by 11 Deputy Superintendents of Police. Careful monitoring of cases filed and a monthly review by the District Superintendents of Police and Police Commissioners and by the Additional DGP ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Act. Periodic reviews of the implementation of the Act at the State and District level are conducted and **I personally reviewed the implementation of the SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in a meeting held on 25.6.2013.**

There are four Special Courts functioning exclusively for the trial of the cases under this Act and two more Special Courts will be started during the current year. 32 exclusive Special Prosecutors have also been appointed for prosecution of cases. Extensive training and sensitization programmes on the provisions of the Act have been organized for Police Officers with the involvement of NGOs, Public Prosecutors and Senior Officers. Immediate monetary relief and rehabilitation is also being provided to all the victims under the relevant provisions of the Act and the Rules.

To conclude, there is perceptible in modern Indian Society, a telescoping tension and intolerance, which threatens to make it more confrontationist, belligerent and prone to overt acts of violence based on various sectarian and caste identities. These have thrown up major challenges to the State and even to Society at large. We must act resolutely and robustly to put down these malevolent antisocial forces. The Government of India must recognize that the maintenance of Law and Order and Police are State subjects in the Constitutional scheme and that the States should be treated as equal partners in a system where co-operation between the States and the Centre should prevail over narrow political considerations.

We must effectively share intelligence, information, and resources between the States and by the Centre with the States, so that the forces of terrorism, fundamentalism, extremism and communalism are put down effectively.

We are a young Nation. By pursuing active, inclusive policies in the areas of health, education, employment and women's empowerment, we can ensure that we inculcate the spirit of communal amity and harmony and pride in our Nation amongst all stakeholders, particularly our youth. Our people, diverse though they may be in colour, language, caste, creed and culture, have been melded into Nationhood, united in terms of a modern, Pan Indian identity that reinforces our national pride and shows to the world the essential idea of One India.

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SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE VALEDICTORY OF THE INDIAN CINEMA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS HELD AT CHENNAI ON 24.9.2013

'MY GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS STOOD BY TAMIL CINEMA'

"I am extremely delighted to be here this evening at this grand event. This is a moment of pristine pride for us as we celebrate a 100 glorious years of existence of Indian Cinema and I deem it a privilege to host this event, as the film industry moves on, towards its next centenary. The enchantment and spell of **CINEMA** is undisputed. Through the years, Cinema in India has charted its own course, created history, and touched milestones.

The global community is aware of and accepts the influence and impact of Cinema on Society. Films have a powerful ubiquity within human culture, and have become an indispensable vehicle for culture, education, leisure and propaganda.

Cinema has become the most powerful Mass Medium since the day it was introduced to the world. The Lumiere Brothers who invented the 'Cinematograph' declared that the cinema is an invention without a future. But they have been proved wrong and here we are, celebrating the centenary of the Indian celluloid and looking forward to a promising future. It is indeed amazing to witness the overpowering influence of Cinema which has catapulted it to its current stature with such powerful attributes. To Indians, Cinema is a bond that opens the world that is similar to their own implicitly, but different explicitly.

Indian Cinema has an identity that is very unique. Despite all its peculiarities, Indian Cinema has been a reflection of the socio-economic, political and cultural changes that took place in the Country. The phenomenon of using music as an inescapable, magnetic, charming draw is unique to Indian Cinema. The Indian film industry witnessed the era of the silent cinema with a number of movies produced by filmmakers in Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai. By 1920, film making transformed into a regular industry and the number of films produced increased to 207

in 1931. It was at this time that commercial cinema started gaining popularity among the masses, cutting across economic divides. After the success of the film ‘Raja Harishchandra’, several filmmakers in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras began making silent films. By the mid 1920s, Chennai became the epicentre for all film related activities. The 1930’s saw sweeping technical and stylistic changes and it was also a decade of social protests. Bombay, Calcutta and Madras were the fountainheads of cinema. The 1940s and 50s saw a vibrancy imbued in song and dance, and playback singing became embedded as a permanent factor in Indian movies. Between 1970 to 1990, these two decades witnessed an unprecedented rise in Commercial Cinema. Along with an array of successful regional block-busters, many exemplary movie makers gifted several classics to Indian movie goers. Indian cinema swayed not only this Country but also influenced world cinema. It is believed that V.Shantharam’s ‘Do Aankhen Barah Haath’ in 1957 inspired the Hollywood movie ‘The Dirty Dozen’ that was released in 1967, and Bimal Roy’s ‘Madhumathi’ in 1958 popularized the theme of reincarnation in the West.

Life in India would not be the same without the exuberance of cinema, song and dance, melodrama, relevant messages – Indian films have it all, be it episodes from the freedom struggle or present day issues. Of the countless individuals associated with cinema, some are eternally identifiable.

Their image and hallmark style are inimitable and the list of such treasures of the Indian Film Industry is infinite. The contributions of film makers, music composers, writers, directors, cinematographers, musicians, playback singers, allied workers, technicians, choreographers, actresses and actors of Indian cinema are etched in the annals of its history.

The Indian film industry made rapid strides in the South, where Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada films were taking South India by storm. Tamil Nadu prides itself in gifting to Indian cinema the first female director, honoured with the title 'Cinema Rani' T.P.Rajalakshmi. On my directions, her birth centenary was celebrated as a Government function recently, to honour the pioneer.

The 1950's and 60's gave a great impetus to the Indian film industry and this period is rightly termed the 'Golden Age' of Indian cinema. This decade witnessed the emergence of one of the most memorable actors of all time – 'Makkal Thilagam' 'Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R', who strode the Tamil film world like a colossus and whose charisma is imprinted indelibly in the hearts of the people of the State.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has firmly stood behind the Tamil film industry offering encouragement and guidance. Whenever I have assumed power as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,

I have ensured that the Tamil film industry is given all necessary support and impetus.

Without an audience, there can be no cinema! This sounds so simple, and yet it is so true. Over the 100 years of Indian Cinema, the anonymous moviegoer has been giving the film world his or her patronage, encouragement, support and goodwill. But for the moviegoer, the film industry would cease to exist. It is therefore necessary and imperative that every person associated with the film industry bears in mind and heart that this anonymous but discerning individual - the moviegoer, is the supreme and ultimate judge of them all.

Today, I exhort all those in the film industry - as you reflect on the past and look with hope to the future, you should dream a dream. The dream of a cinema that entertains, that engages, and that endures - a cinema that leaves its imprint as much on our hearts and our conscience as on our minds; an imprint that lasts long after the lights come on - for a lifetime. Cinema is a dream - and a reality that, one hundred years on, is as powerful and as valuable as it has ever been. Your duty is to keep it that way.

I wish the Indian Cinema many more centenaries.

Thank you."

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SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, 2013 AT THE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU INDOOR STADIUM, CHENNAI ON 7.11.2013

CHIEF MINISTER OPENS WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 'CHESS MAKES CHILDREN SMARTER'

I am happy to be here to share this glorious moment with you. This period of time will be hailed in the chronicles of history as the 'Golden era of chess'. For the first time, India, the home of the oldest intellectual game, will witness the complete set of games to be played as part of the World Chess Championship match being hosted in Chennai. It is an occasion which will set the tone and herald a new course in the Nation's interest in this sport - which has been celebrated as the 'Gymnasium of the Mind'. Chess is very close to my heart and I regard this game very highly, both as a player and as an enthusiast.

When the World Chess Federation President, Mr.Kirsan Illyumzhinov, met me in 2011, he requested me to hold the World Chess Championship match in Chennai. I immediately agreed to do so at a cost of 20 crore rupees. However, it failed to materialise as Russia made the highest bid for the championship. As a goodwill gesture towards the interest expressed by the Government of Tamil Nadu in holding the event, the World Chess Federation agreed to hold the World Chess Championship match, 2013, in Chennai, without any bid. I have sanctioned an amount of 29 crore rupees for this landmark event.

The history of chess spans over 1500 years. The earliest predecessor of the game originated in India, before the 6th century AD. We can proudly claim that India is the homeland of this amazing game, which has permeated into all continents down the centuries.

The dynamics of the game can be understood from the ancient Indian concept of warfare, wherein two armies encountered each other in a face-to face combat. Such a picture is furnished in the description of a war between two armies in the epic, Raghuvamsa, penned by Kalidasa:

"It was a battle between two forces of equal strength: the footman encountering the footman; the charioteer against the charioteer; the horse rider

facing the horse rider; the elephant warrior engaging the elephant warrior".

The popularity of chess in the Western courtly Society peaked between the 12th and the 15th centuries. Between 1200 and 1400, the game became a fixture in European Society.

In the Seventeenth Century, Chess flourished mostly in Italy, which consequently produced the strongest players.

Towards the beginning of the Eighteenth Century the game flourished in France, England and Germany. The most famous master of the time was the Frenchman, Andre Philidor, who, for more than forty years, maintained his supremacy over the sport. During the 1800's, chess became a competitive endeavour and the first 'modern chess tournament' took place in London in the year 1851. The German player, Adolf Anderssen won the tournament and soon became known as the world's leading Chess Master. He reigned as the champion till the American player, Paul Morphy emerged on the chess scene in 1857. Wilhelm Steinitz was crowned the first official World Champion in 1886. Emanuel Lasker was one of the strongest players ever to play the game, having spent 27 years as the undisputed World Champion – still the longest reign of any World chess champion in history! Jose Raul Capablanca, Alexander Alekhine,

Tigran Petrosian, Boris Spassky, Bobby Fischer, Anatoly Karpov, Garry Kasparov, Vladimir Kramnik and our very own Viswanathan Anand adorn the 'Hall of Fame' in the sport of chess. In stark contrast to other parts of the country, chess has a strong following particularly in Chennai, primarily because of the presence of Viswanathan Anand.

Chess has indeed made deep inroads into the psyche of people all over the globe in the last millennium, more so in India, evidenced by the fact that the number of Grand Masters in India has tripled to 27 today. The number of International Chess Masters in the country has also tripled to 76 and India is in the world top 10 in rankings.

All through my three tenures as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, I have aimed at achieving excellence in sports. The budgetary allocation for the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department has been doubled to 111.53 crore rupees in the current year. I believe that good infrastructure plays a pivotal role in creating an ambience conducive to sports. With this in mind, I have ensured the utmost impetus to developing world class sports infrastructure in Tamil Nadu. The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, The Nehru Indoor Stadium, Hockey Stadium, Tennis Stadium and Aquatic Complex in the heart of the City of Chennai have all drawn the appreciation of the entire sports fraternity of the State. The

Seventh South Asian Federation Games, 1995, were hosted by the Government of Tamil Nadu in these world class sports facilities, making Chennai a “Sports Hub” capable of hosting national and international competitions in various disciplines. A sum of 33.60 crore rupees has been sanctioned to create playfield facilities and improve the existing facilities to global standards at the Nehru Indoor Stadium complex and the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and 4.50 crore rupees has been sanctioned to renovate and create new facilities at the Tennis Stadium at Nungambakkam. A state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence for Sports has been established in Chennai in which 50 talented young children in the age group of 10 to 14 years will be identified and given residential training in various disciplines to groom them into future medalists who will win laurels for the State and the Nation at National and International Sports Meets.

The Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University was established in 2004 during my second tenure over an area spanning 125 acres in Melakottaiyur village in Kancheepuram District. A Sports Science Centre was established in the University at a cost of 2.2 crore rupees. A sum of 9.98 crore rupees has been sanctioned as a one-time-catch-up grant for improving the infrastructure in the University. The University will

foster technical excellence in physical education and sports.

In a move to popularize chess and harness the benefits of this game, I have introduced the 'Chess in Schools' program to improve the cognitive skills of students. It is aimed at exposing students, especially those from rural areas, to the rudiments of the game. I have also ordered the establishment of Chess Clubs in all Government and Government aided schools and sanctioned an amount of 39.47 lakh rupees for the same. Chess makes children smarter. It does so by teaching skills like focusing, visualizing, thinking ahead, weighing options, analyzing, thinking in abstract terms, planning and juggling multiple considerations simultaneously. It enhances concentration, patience and perseverance, and also develops creativity, intuition and memory. Precision of thought, intuitive understanding, quick reflexes and tenacity are some of the powerful attributes of this spectacular sport. I envision that, our children in the State of Tamil Nadu - the treasures of the future - will shine forth with maturity and brilliance, learning to accept victory with humility and defeat with grace.

A Hall of Chess has been established at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai, to impart regular training to aspirants in chess. Cash prizes

to the extent of 74 lakh rupees were awarded to 12 chess players of the State who have brought laurels to Tamil Nadu. My Government has extended financial assistance to host the National Chess Championship and sponsored air fare for talented chess players to participate in International Competitions. The quantum of grant to State Sports Associations to host National Championships in Chennai has been enhanced from 65 lakh rupees to 1.30 crore rupees.

To celebrate sports and sportsmanship and to promote the culture of sports in the State, my Government has instituted a first-of-its-kind State-level Chief Minister's Trophy competition in 10 disciplines for which a sum of 8.09 crore rupees has been sanctioned. The prize money of 1 lakh rupees to Gold medal winners, 75,000 rupees to silver medal winners and 50,000 rupees to bronze medal winners in addition to the trophy were handed over by me at a recent function. To establish Sports Hostels in all the Districts in a phased manner, a sum of 6.33 crore rupees has been sanctioned. A total sum of 3.52 crore rupees has been allotted to construct swimming pools in Namakkal, Theni, Thiruvallur and Virudhunagar. In a bid to motivate sports activities in villages, I have sanctioned a sum of 6.26 crore rupees for the year 2013-2014 for the conduct of sports competitions in 3119 village panchayats.

In an effort to incentivize upcoming sports stars of the State, a sum of 1.25 crore rupees has been sanctioned per year to provide need based assistance to 5 elite sports persons at the rate of 25 lakh rupees each per year. The Cash Incentive for achievers in the Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, South Asian Federation Games, National Games, etc. has been doubled to motivate sports persons. An Olympic Gold medal winner from Tamil Nadu will be awarded 2 crore rupees instead of the earlier 1 crore rupees. These initiatives have to a large extent paved a trail for players from Tamil Nadu to move ahead in the national and international sports arena.

Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand is, quite simply, the greatest sportsman India has ever produced. He has been the epitome of chess in India. Born on 11th December, 1969, in Chennai, Viswanathan Anand has emerged as a role model for aspiring chess players of India. This astoundingly modest personality from Chennai has made us all proud with his resplendent ability to deftly navigate expertly around this complex maze of 64 squares. His love and hunger for mastering this craft is evident in his ceaseless quest for victory. He gained national recognition at an early age, when he won the National Sub-Junior Chess Championship in 1983, at the age of fourteen. In the following year, he became the youngest Indian to be entitled to the

International Master Title. He became the National Chess Champion at the age of sixteen, and went on to receive the title twice thereafter. In 1987, Anand won the World Junior Chess Championship, which made him the first Indian to reach that dizzying height. In 1988, Viswanathan Anand became the first Grandmaster of India, winning the International Chess tournament held in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. This achievement won him one of India's most prestigious civilian awards - the Padma Shri. He entered the World Chess Championship competitions in 1993.

He has been feted by the Government – the Rajiv Khel Ratna, Padma Bhushan, Sportstar Millennium Award, Chess Oscar and the Padma Vibhushan sit proudly in his cabinet of honours. Anand is the only Chess player to have won the World Chess Championships in all three formats – knock-out in 2000, tournament in 2007 and classical in 2008. Consistency, versatility and single-minded focus have always been his forte.

I now take this opportunity to welcome the "Mozart of Chess" from Norway, Magnus Carlsen. Armed with youthful vigour, his precocious talents have captured the imagination of chess lovers across the world. He was totally fascinated by chess and became deeply engrossed and involved in chess to the point of obsession from early childhood and by

the age of 13, he was an International Grand Master. At the age of 20, he became the youngest number one of the FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Echecs) rating list in history. On February 1, 2013, on the FIDE rating list, he achieved a rating performance of 2872 points, the highest score in world chess history so far. Carlsen has experienced one of the fastest ascents to the elite stratosphere of chess, the pinnacle of which we are all assembled to witness, as he challenges World champion Viswanathan Anand for the world title.

The entire atmosphere here is charged with intellectual voltage as both prepare vigorously for the epochal battle. This event is iconic and historic and Chennai is proud to host it. We, in Chennai, wait with nail biting anticipation. I invoke God's blessings on both the players to realise their ambition and wish them both a long and glorious career for many more years to come.

Thank you.

I declare the FIDE World Championship Match, 2013, open.

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CONVOCATION ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE 34TH CONVOCATION OF THE ANNA UNIVERSITY ON 22.11.2013.

TRANSFORM LIVES, CHIEF MINISTER URGES GRADUATE ENGINEERS

"I deem it a privilege to deliver the 34th Convocation address of this premier institution – the Anna University. It is always a pleasure to witness the exhilarating scene of young, energetic graduates clad in academic robes and to behold the joy, the inspiration and the enthusiasm which this day of the University kindles in all of us. It is indeed a moment of great satisfaction and joy as your academic efforts, testimonials of study and work faithfully accomplished, come to fruition. This is a defining moment in your life, as you prepare to leave the confines of the college to embrace a gleaming future. Today is your day and you have rightfully earned it with your determination and hard work. This convocation ceremony is characterized by

sheer joy but also tinged with a shade of nostalgia. The joy is for the successful completion of a difficult rigorous academic programme and the thrill of being at the threshold of a promising professional career. The nostalgia is for the glorious days spent in the campus, the soaring spirits, bonds nurtured, freedom unlimited and no shackles of accountability.

In various other parts of the world, this occasion is called Commencement because you are commencing your journey of translating your education into benefit to Society at large. It is an emergence from an atmosphere of cloistered seclusion, of protected insulation from the acerbities of life. You were blessed with the time and the inclination to dream your dreams and to fashion your inner world and now it is time to commence your contribution to the world outside. You must realise that your education is the result of supreme self-sacrifice on the part of your parents who had to stint even on the necessities of life in order to give you an exemplary education.

Universities have been naively viewed as "engines" of innovation that churn out new ideas that can be translated into commercial innovations and regional growth. Universities are far more important as the Nation's primary source of knowledge creation and talent. Universities have to redefine their role based on sound reflection on the past and future growth to enable social well-being and lead a rigorous and innovative inquiry to achieve this. This

holistic education requires teachers to be enablers and mentors of the education process. Within the domain of science, Universities have a distinctive obligation to nurture and fulfill the deep human desire to understand everything — from the smallest elementary particle to the sweep of the galaxies — to rightly accelerate efforts in harvesting new technologies from knowledge in its most basic form. The mandate of Universities to provide education that will enable a high quality of inquiry among their students and build their capacities to work as good professionals has not changed. But it is imperative that it should not fail to mould its students into apostles of culture determined to extend the benefits of university education to the average person and raise the intellectual tone of Society as a whole. Mere knowledge which gratifies curiosity is different from culture which refines personality.

Anna University is the pride of Tamil Nadu and it is indeed a tremendous accomplishment that you have graduated from one of the finest institutions of the country. Born as a Survey School in May, 1794, the College of Engineering was one of the most esteemed British Indian Educational Institutions and one of the ancient professional training schools in India. It owes its inception to Michael Topping, the astronomer, geographical and marine surveyor, at the Presidency of Fort St. George. During 1858, the name of the Survey School was changed to "Civil Engineering School".

The college became the first Institution in the country to award a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

In the year 1920 the college was shifted to its present campus at Guindy. The College was the first in India to introduce a degree course in Electrical Engineering in 1932. Yet more first degree programmes in Telecommunication and Highway Engineering were started in 1945. The Anna University was formed on the 4th September 1978 by amalgamating the College of Engineering, Guindy; the Alagappa Chettiar College of Technology; the Madras Institute of Technology and the School of Architecture and Planning.

During the year 2001, Anna University was converted as an affiliating type University by bringing together about 250 Engineering Colleges in the State of Tamil Nadu. Anna University was reverted to the unitary type University on 18th June 2010. From the 1st August, 2012, it was again converted as an affiliating type University, the largest technological University in Asia with 637 Institutions under one umbrella to ensure uniform quality in Engineering education across the State and to synergise the efforts towards technological advancement. Four Regional Centres have been established to co-ordinate the academic and administrative functions of the University. The University is today widely acclaimed for its academic excellence and research in frontier areas such as

Electronics and Communications, Computer Science, Information Technology, Aeronautical Engineering, Biotechnology, Crystal Growth, Remote Sensing, Environmental Studies, Water Resources, Climate Change and Adaptation Research, Nano-Science and Technology to mention a few. The Anna University has 34 Departments and 48 autonomous Centres. The University currently offers 28 UG Programmes and 86 PG Programmes in its four main campuses; and 37 UG Programmes and 56 PG Programmes in its affiliated colleges with a student registration of more than 7 Lakhs. I am informed that an astounding number of 5500 Ph.D. scholars are on roll. Anna University successfully conducts Single Window Counseling for UG and PG admissions every year covering about 1.85 lakh candidates.

The degrees you are about to receive will certify in writing that you are among the best engineers of the country for you carry the brand name 'Anna University'. It is a living and dynamic institution dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence and spirit of enquiry. It is a reservoir of intellectual forces of the Nation and the clearing house for intellectual ideas. This is an environment in which knowledge and intellect can blossom. The University has become more relevant than ever as a provider of talent, knowledge and innovation in this age of knowledge-based capitalism. I would like to quote the words of Theodore von Karman, "Science is the study of the world as it is; Engineering is the creation of the world

of tomorrow". Engineering is the professional art of applied science for the optimum conversion of natural resources to the uses of humankind. It is the root of all technical and technological instruction. Technology pervades and dominates in all areas of human endeavour. Engineers are creative and inventive and serve humanity in myriad ways. I exhort you, the engineers of the future to energise the virtual circle of prosperity and development through technological innovation.

Exceptional engineers use the engineering process on broad challenges, not just traditional engineering problems and I can see that all of you belong to that mettle – the league of citizens who care about the problems faced by our people.You should seek to calibrate the value of life and your vocation by whatever positive changes it can make in the lives of others. The phalanx of ideas you generate, should revolutionise the solutions to the problems faced by Society. All technological inventions be they in computer engineering, electronics, bio-engineering and biotechnology and a host of other fields should contribute to improving the quality of living of our people. You are going to embark on a new journey in your life — a journey, which I hope will not only lead you to a fulfilling career; but also, through your dedication and efforts, enable you to, in some significant way, contribute to the faster development of our State. The truth is that Tamil Nadu needs you — your passion, creativity and drive. It needs the

spirit of exploration and the thirst for knowledge that you have embraced here in this great institution.

You have a social responsibility — a responsibility that cannot be shirked, or shrugged off as insignificant. You must retain in you the spirit of trusteeship and contribute substantially to your roots, the Society around, the institutions that brought you up and the State and the Nation at large. The real road to contribution and Nation-building begins today. I will be watching you as you bloom into ambassadors of change. Tamil Nadu is on the road to being the numero uno State in the Country. You will all be integral to it.

This convocation is the hallmark of your having received a liberal education; an education which has imbued you with a wide outlook, which enables you to break the bondage of narrow self-interests, sectional, sectarian and parochial prejudices. Your knowledge and training carry with them the larger responsibilities of citizenship. Take your University experience with you in your heart and in your mind. The world today requires constant learning, constant re-education; constant attention to continued development as a person; and no institution, no job, no training course can offer what you have taken from here. Remember that you are the trustees and guardians of the reputation and prestige of the Anna University.

Tamil Nadu is metamorphosing into the 'Innovation hub' and 'Knowledge capital' of India. As a prelude

to achieving this laurel, my Government has initiated several schemes, a few of which I will mention…. Establishment of 'University Business Collaboration Centre'; Incubation and Technology Transfer Centres; Post Graduate Centres of Excellence with high tech laboratories in Universities; the setting up of network libraries; soft skill training centres for empowering students to develop managerial skill and employability; the establishment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT); Training Centres for Differently Abled; and ICT enabled Self Employment Training Centres for Women; the setting up of a Centre for Tourism and Hotel Management; Centre for Tamil Computing; introducing new courses in Government Arts and Science Colleges; and achieving Community Development through Polytechnic Colleges. My Government has accorded prime priority to higher education. Every possible incentive is being given to students to handhold them in completing their education. This includes provision of cash incentives to students; and provision of learning equipment including laptop computers. During April 2013 an allocation of 150 crore rupees was made towards the infrastructure development of Regional Centres and the constituent colleges of the Anna University. In an effort to fulfill the aspirations of rural students, I have ordered the opening of four new Government Engineering colleges which have started functioning. Higher education plays a key role in its ability to induce change and progress in

Society. Knowledge alone will enable us to deal with the present and future challenges that confront us in every sphere of life whether it be environment, health or food security. Higher education improvement is high on the agenda of my Government with emphasis on expansion, inclusion and excellence as pillars of higher education. My Government has taken and will take all possible measures to augment the much required and treasured human resources.

Here, are gathered the shapers of our State's destiny; the technocrats driven by idealism and ambition combined in generous proportions. The qualities of mind and character should be constantly reinforced and reformed and your commitment to service as you progress in your respective careers should be strengthened; and you should keep your ideals undimmed.

The foundation you have built here at this august University will stand you in great stead for the rest of your life. I congratulate those who by dint of hard work and disciplined effort have attained distinctions and won laurels. For those who have not fared well too, opportunities are aplenty. You can always salvage whatever you want. My Government does not hesitate to walk the last mile. Each individual to me is precious. I invoke the Almighty's blessings on each one of you to help you hold your head high and tread the right path.

I congratulate the teaching and the non-teaching staff who are the support girders of this institution. I convey my deep appreciation to the parents; some of whom have faced relentless odds to accomplish their dream of positioning their children in Society.

I shall close with the memorable words of Lord Oxford to the students of the Aberdeen University, “Keep always with you, whatever your course may be, the company of great thoughts, the inspiration of great ideals, the example of great achievement, the consolation of great failures. So equipped you can face without perturbation the buffets of circumstances, the caprice of fortune or the inscrutable vicissitudes of life.”

I wish all of you glorious and successful careers.

Thank you.”

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTORS AND POLICE OFFICERS ON 11.12.2013

'MIDWAY THROUGH TENURE, TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT GEARS UP FOR VISION 2023'

Hon'ble Ministers,

Chief Secretary,

Director General of Police,

Secretaries to Government,

Senior Police Officers,

Commissioners of Police,

Heads of Departments,

District Collectors,

Superintendents of Police, and

Other officers of the Government,

I am very happy to be present amongst you today on the occasion of the Third Annual Conference of Collectors and Police Officers, since my Government assumed office in May 2011. We are at a mid-way point through the tenure of this Government and it presents us with a good opportunity to take stock of the remarkable progress we have made so far and plan our future course of action. It is also an opportunity to reinvigorate and re-energize ourselves to sustain the high levels of performance and achievement and realize our dream of making Tamil Nadu the Numero Uno State in India.

2. When I look back at the State's achievements over the past two and a half years, there is a sense of fulfilment about what has been achieved in every sphere of administration. This Government has formulated and launched a number of schemes for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden in order to provide them the basic requirements of food, clothing

and shelter, schemes for the development of women, children and other vulnerable sections of Society, for the development of infrastructure in order to enhance investment and growth, to enhance the quality of education in the State, to provide better health care, and to improve skills to boost employment. **The State has consistently won awards and accolades at the national level for good performance in a range of schemes and sectors.** All of this has been enabled by three factors – the vision and leadership that has been provided, the exemplary and flawless maintenance of public order, which forms the bedrock for effective administration for the people to prosper and finally the dedicated efforts of Government officials at various levels.

3. However, we should not rest on our laurels or become complacent. The same level of performance must continue to be maintained and in fact, has to be stepped up even further. The time horizon for realising the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023, which I had unveiled is now just 10 years away. The major outcomes that I had envisioned for the State to reachby 2023 are by no means, easy goals that can be achieved with a business as usual approach. I have always believed that setting stretch targets and difficult goals is the best way to inspire greater effort. My Government has commenced the implementation of many schemes to achieve these goals. I must stress

here that the role of the field officers is extremely crucial in converting that vision into reality.

4. The first and most vital function of the State is the maintenance of public order and ensuring the protection of its citizens. The ability of my Government to understand and empathise with the just and fair expectations of the people of the State on critical issues, has been one of the most important reasons for the proper maintenance of public order in Tamil Nadu. It requires the administration at the local level to be sensitive to ground realities. District Administration in Tamil Nadu is being run in this manner, thanks to close supervision and monitoring from above and positive response to public expectations that manifests itself from below.

5. So far as the maintenance of law and order is concerned, it is a matter of pride and satisfaction to all of us present here that Tamil Nadu has largely been free of communal, left wing extremist, and religious fundamentalist violence. This is because I have given the Police Force and the District Administration a free hand and unstinting support in maintaining law and order. I would like to reiterate that the Government will not spare anyone who tries to whip up communal passions and create caste tensions. The Police and the District Administration have been given a clear and unambiguous mandate to put down anti social elements with an iron hand.

6. Although persistent attempts have been made by Maoists to strike roots in the State, they have been denied a foothold by ceaseless vigilance, particularly in the tri-junction area between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, where intelligence inputs had indicated that Naxalites were likely to try to establish their presence. Similarly, firm action has been taken to quell the activities of some front organizations espousing left wing extremist ideology and attempting to build up a mass base. One primary reason for the frustration of left wing extremists at not succeeding in their mission is that the Administration in the State is responsive to the needs of the public. People do not have to look up to anti-constitutional forces for redressal of genuine grievances, when the political and administrative machineries are able to provide relief. In tackling the menace of left wing extremism an understanding and responsive administration and developmental measures have a big role in supplementing Police action.

7. The humanitarian problem of Sri Lankan Tamils being treated as second class citizens in their own land in post ethnic conflict Sri Lanka and failure to hold the Sri Lankan regime to account for acts of genocide in the closing stages of the civil war are major emotive issues in our State. The Government of India's insensitive handling of

the issue continues to compound the problem. However, the fallout of this serious issue within Tamil Nadu has been effectively handled through deft and tactful measures.

8. The continuing unprovoked, dastardly and murderous attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy upon innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu, while in pursuit of their livelihood in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay and their indiscriminate arrests, have agitated the entire fisherfolk community in Tamil Nadu. I have repeatedly written to the Prime Minister protesting against these attacks and seeking his intervention to end them. I have also written several times to the Prime Minister emphasizing that a permanent solution to the problem can be found only by retrieving Indian sovereignty over the island of Kachatheevu, which was permanently ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 without the requisite mandate of Parliament. I have taken up the matter in my personal capacity by filing a Writ Petition before the Supreme Court of India in 2008. The Government of Tamil Nadu has subsequently impleaded itself through the Revenue Department, after a Resolution was passed in the Legislative Assembly in 2011. The stand of my Government is that Katchatheevu has been a part of India, geographically, culturally and historically and needs to be retrieved, keeping in view the livelihood interests and security of lakhs

of Tamil Nadu fishermen. I am hopeful of a positive verdict in this matter in the Supreme Court of India.

9. I have always been passionate about securing the goal of true gender equity in Tamil Nadu. As a result of my efforts, Tamil Nadu has emerged as a State where women feel safe and secure. Impelled by the need to have an even more effective and stronger framework to protect women from sexual violence, I had announced a fresh set of measures - a bold and innovative **'Thirteen Point Plan'**. As more and more instances of sexual violence are being reported across the Country, it is very important to continue to keep Tamil Nadu free of this scourge. I request all of you to be extremely vigilant in this aspect and take all precautionary steps to prevent the occurrence of such incidents in our State.

10. Earlier this year, when Tamil Nadu faced drought conditions due to the failure of the Monsoons, and the intransigence of Karnataka in not releasing our rightful share of Cauvery water, I took the decision to announce Special Relief Packages for the farmers in the Delta and non Delta areas, at norms much higher than those prescribed by the Government of India. Funds were liberally sanctioned for various drought mitigation measures, including the provision of drinking water in rural and urban areas, steps to tackle fodder scarcity

and taking up works to provide employment to people in drought affected areas. An amount of Rs 1,614 crores was sanctioned to enable the farmers in the drought affected areas to tide over the crisis. I am happy to note that the Collectors took up the task of providing the drought relief in right earnest and ensured that the package effectively reached all the affected persons.

11. My Government is one that speedily responds to its citizens whenever they are in distress, wherever they may be. An example of this was the massive rescue effort launched by us to bring back hundreds of pilgrims from Tamil Nadu who were stranded in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand, after the torrential rains and catastrophic floods and landslides in May, 2013.

12. At this point of time, we are still facing uncertain weather conditions. The receipt of the North-East Monsoon rains have so far been much below the expected level. I am hopeful that we will still receive more rain as the season is yet to end. **However, as pro-active administrators, you should be fully geared up to swing into action in order to counter any kind of unforeseen weather related distress.**

13. In an effort to revive growth in the Agriculture Sector, the plan allocation for agriculture and allied

activities has been enhanced by 32 per cent to 3340 crore rupees. The strategy is to intervene in critical areas in need of investment, like agricultural infrastructure and timely supply of adequate inputs, so as to unlock the potential of this sector and to empower the farmer to increase both farm productivity and farm income. Along with the existing ongoing landmark schemes like System of Rice Intensification, Transplanted Redgram, Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative and precision farming to improve productivity, this Government has taken up many new initiatives. These include the Food Grain Mission to double food grain production by 2015-2016, enhancing locally available irrigation sources through the creation of 70,000 farm ponds, provision of Mobile Oil Engines with sprinklers and rain guns on a rental basis, providing solar powered pump sets with forward linkages to micro irrigation and improved technologies, farm mechanization on a massive scale to alleviate the shortage of farm labour and establishment of aggregation centres for perishable horticulture commodities on a Hub and Spoke model with comprehensive post harvest processing and value addition facilities. The agenda notes contain more details about these interventions and I look forward to hearing from the Collectors about the steps taken by them to effectively implement the Government's initiatives.

14. In order to augment farm income, the increasing focus will be on allied activities. I have launched a number of important initiatives in the Animal Husbandry Sector, including the free distribution of milch cows, as well as the distribution of goats and sheep to poor families. I expect that the free milch animal distribution scheme will significantly step up the procurement of milk by the co-operatives. Collectors should monitor this aspect closely and tackle problems such as fodder shortage and the outbreak of diseases.

15. Tamil Nadu's Universal Public Distribution System is a model food security programme which has been commended both within India and elsewhere. This is a very critical programme, which requires constant vigil and monitoring so as to ensure that the benefits continue to reach the deserving persons and to plug leakages. I urge the Collectors to ensure that the process of collection of bio-metric information through the National Population Register is expedited and the State is in a position to issue smart cards to all families in the State at the earliest.

16. As part of the many measures taken by this Government to combat price rise, 40 Farm Fresh Consumer Outlets have been opened in Chennai. Consumers are now able to buy vegetables at reasonable prices and at the same time farmers get both an

assured market and remunerative prices. Already, 2482 metric tonnes of vegetables valued at 7.38 crore rupees have been sold through these Outlets. To ensure sustainable vegetable supply, 10,493 farmers have been provided crop loans of 55.22 crore rupees for the cultivation of vegetables. I request the District Collectors to open Farm Fresh Outlets at appropriate locations in their Districts for the benefit of the public.

17. I congratulate all the Collectors and Police Officers present here on the smooth completion of the five phases of elections to the 21,027 co-operative institutions in the State in which 2,04,889 persons were elected as Directors of the Boards of the institutions**. This is a historic achievement and will realise the goal of democratizing the functioning of co-operatives in the State.**

18. The rural development schemes designed and undertaken by this Government have set the benchmark for the highest standards of infrastructure and quality service delivery in rural areas which are not found anywhere else in the country. The Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme is a unique first-of-its-kind programme, which provides high quality shelter to the rural poor along with clean energy. The Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme (THAI) is a

novel scheme that fulfils the demands of the rural community for all basic infrastructure needs through micro level planning and ensures the equitable provision of infrastructure at the habitation level. District Collectors must ensure that these schemes are properly implemented with the right selection of beneficiaries and with a convergence approach to magnify the impact.

19. Cities are engines of growth. You are aware that Tamil Nadu is the most urbanized large State in the country. Making our cities livable, attractive and competitive is an area of high priority for my Government. I have sanctioned the Chennai Mega City Development Mission with an annual allocation of 500 crore rupees and the Integrated Urban Development Mission with an annual allocation of 750 crore rupees to fund urban infrastructure. Urban growth will no doubt create jobs and fuel prosperity, but mine is also a compassionate and caring Government. The poor and the vulnerable in the urban areas are at the forefront of my agenda. **The establishment of Amma Unavagams is a revolutionary concept, which has changed the paradigm of nutrition for the poor, just as the Nutritious Midday Meal Programme did when Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR launched it three decades ago in 1982.** The Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission is yet another major initiative of

this Government to ensure that the urban poor are able to fully benefit from growth.

20. An "Open Defecation Free State by 2015" is a high priority goal of this Government. The Government has drawn up a three year comprehensive plan and launched the scheme for eradication of open defecation in urban areas since 2011-2012. The scheme will be continued in 2013-2014 with an outlay of 72.60 crore rupees. This scheme is focusing on increasing public toilet facilities and IEC activities to sensitize people about the issue.

21. For rural areas, the unit cost of individual toilets has now been increased to 11,100 rupees per unit. I had started the facility of Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women during 2001 to 2004. These complexes were not maintained between 2006 to 2011 and became dysfunctional. These complexes have been renovated during 2011 and 2012 at a cost of 170 crore rupees. With the success of the scheme of sanitary complexes for women, the Government is now establishing sanitary complexes for men as well. I expect the District Collectors to play a very important role in ensuring that the goal of an Open Defecation Free State is achieved by 2015.

22. Tamil Nadu has been a front runner in providing Public Health Care for the poor at affordable

costs. This Government has launched new landmark initiatives, such as the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme with an annual outlay of 750 crore rupees, which has been a huge success, and the Menstrual Hygiene Programme with an outlay of 55 crore rupees. Assistance under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme has been increased to 12,000 rupees per beneficiary. With its pioneering schemes, sustained efforts and infusion of funds in critical areas, Tamil Nadu has already achieved the Millennium Development Goals of reducing the Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate well ahead of time. The District Collectors should ensure that we continue to achieve improvement in these important Human Development indicators and specifically address challenges found in remote and tribal areas. The State has a wide network of Primary Health Centres, secondary care facilities and tertiary care super specialty hospitals and medical colleges so as to take healthcare services to the remotest corners of the State. The District Collectors should ensure that these facilities are effectively utilised. In addition to addressing the challenges of Non Communicable diseases on one side, with the clear cut guidelines issued by the Government in preventing, controlling and handling emergent situations, the State has been able to effectively

respond to the challenge of vector borne diseases such as dengue. Collectors should ensure that the measures put in place to prevent and control the outbreak of diseases are sustained by effectively co-ordinating with local bodies, different departments and the community.

23. Tamil Nadu has provided the best services and infrastructure to its schools, which has been recognized by the recently published Education Development Index. The Teacher – Pupil ratio in Tamil Nadu stands at 1:27 at the primary and upper primary level which is one of the best in the country. This Government ensures that school going children are provided with text books, note books, other stationery items, school uniforms, transportation facilities and of course the nutritionally enhanced midday meal. The next focus area for the Government is the improvement in the quality of education through a number of measures, so as to ensure that Government funded schools do not lag behind private schools in the provision of teaching learning materials and technology. Focused attention is being given to the weaker sections of Society and education of girls. It would be pertinent to note that, in the past ten years, the gender gap in terms of literacy has been reduced substantially and the Government is committed to completely nullifying illiteracy within ten years. The District Collectors

must also ensure that the benefits of Government programmes to promote education amongst the Adi-Dravidars, Tribals, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities are fully realized by them through the effective implementation of the scholarship scheme and by ensuring expeditious construction of new hostel buildings and proper upkeep and maintenance of the hostels.

24. The State's flagship scheme of providing laptop computers to all higher secondary school and college students has the noble objective of expanding their knowledge and bridging the digital divide. The provision of fans, mixies and grinders to all poor households is mainly focused on relieving the drudgery of women and enabling higher work participation by women. The District Collectors should carefully monitor the distribution of the laptop computers, fans, mixies and grinders and ensure that necessary service facilities are provided.

25. This Government has recently taken a number of initiatives to expand industrial growth to the backward regions of the State, especially in Southern Tamil Nadu. In the coming years, 9 new industrial parks will be created in 9 Southern Districts making available an additional area of 20,650 acres. Special incentives are being extended to industries for establishing new units in these parks

with a focus on employment and economic uplift of these Districts. I recently announced a package of measures for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector since this is another high priority area to generate employment. The capital subsidy for plant and machinery of MSMEs has been increased to 25 per cent. The Small Industries Development Corporation will create a land bank of 2000 acres for the MSMEs. A single window system has been established for facilitating business startup procedures. We will also incentivize aggregation of scattered MSMEs into self-contained industrial complexes. The District Collectors have a very important facilitative role to play in the industrial development of their Districts and they should ensure that the necessary land and other clearances are made available to promote industrialization.

26. In the last two Conferences of Collectors and Superintendents of Police, many of you had come up with a number of proposals and made requests for your respective Districts and jurisdictions. After carefully considering these requests, I had made a total of 81 specific announcements at the end of the Conference in 2011, and 346 announcements in 2012, acceding to almost all the requests made by you. **My intention was that you should be afforded the best possible opportunity and given the necessary support to effectively provide good governance in your**

respective Districts, and to effectively contribute to my Government's agenda for growth development and welfare of the people. I am happy to inform you that, with regard to the 81 announcements made in 2011, the necessary Government orders have been issued. Out of the 346 announcements made in 2012, Government orders have been issued giving effect to 332 announcements. 8 announcements have been dropped or the implementation postponed because the matters are sub judice. It is the duty of each one of you present here to ensure that the policy intent of these announcements are translated into results on the ground and made meaningful to the people.

27. We have before us a comprehensive and detailed agenda covering many key issues, including the maintenance of law and order, and the whole gamut of developmental programmes. I look forward to constructive deliberations on the items in the agenda. I request each of you to make precise, pointed and succinct presentations. I expect you to benchmark yourselves against the best standards and practices and to live up to the expectations of this Government that truly reflects the aspirations of the people.

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OPENING REMARKS AT THE CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT COLLECTORS HELD ON 12.12.2013

'FOCUS ON STEPS TO REVIVE ECONOMY'

Hon'ble Ministers,

Chief Secretary,

Secretaries to Government and

Heads of Departments,

District Collectors and other Officers,

We have had very fruitful discussions on several issues concerning the maintenance of Law and Order yesterday. Today, we turn to the development

Agenda. This presents us with a good opportunity to take stock of the progress in implementation of the plethora of new initiatives and schemes launched by my Government and the success achieved in terms of impacting the lives of the common people and fuelling growth and prosperity.

2. The slowdown in the national economy has affected the growth performance of the State economy as well. The severe drought in the State during 2012 impacted growth particularly in the agriculture and allied activities sector. We need to focus on taking all efforts to revive economic growth and put it back on a high growth trajectory. I am quite confident that with the sustained and focussed efforts that we are undertaking across all sectors the State would be able to achieve the growth target for 2013-2014.

3. The growth model that I have adopted for Tamil Nadu is to achieve equitable development through inclusive growth. The emphasis is on the word "inclusive". It is the duty of the State to ensure that no one is excluded from the development process and this means that each one of you has a special responsibility to expand the reach of the Government schemes and programmes to the most vulnerable and marginalised sections of Society -- Adi Dravidars,

Tribals, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Women, Children and the disabled.

4. In this context, I am reminded of how a scholar of Public Administration described the institution of the District Collector, and I quote, "The general image of the Collector in the people's mind is not that of the coercive apparatus of Government but the benevolent arm of the Government extended to the people. He/She is primarily a welfare officer. It is he/she who is expected to provide relief to people affected by natural calamities, local troubles and even in personal difficulties." This is the image I would expect each one of you to live up to.

5. I look forward to a focused and meaningful discussion on the important items on the agenda and to learn from you as to how the benefits of the unprecedented number of new initiatives and schemes taken up by my Government have reached all the intended beneficiaries. The items listed out in the Agenda may now be taken up sequentially for discussion.

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OPENING REMARKS AT THE CONFERENCE OF POLICE OFFICERS HELD ON 13.12.2013

KUDOS TO THE POLICE WITH A CAVEAT

Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Chief Secretary,

Principal Secretary, Home,

Director General of Police,

Senior Police Officers,

District Superintendents of Police and

Delegates attending this Conference,

During the Joint Session we had elaborate and fruitful discussions on law and order maintenance

which draws upon the co-ordinated efforts of District Collectors and Police Officers. Though important in itself, law and order is only a portion of Police responsibilities. Policing encompasses a wide variety of other tasks like crime prevention, crime detection, traffic regulation, security of VIPs, security of vital installations, disaster management, and enforcement of social legislation of different kinds.

The Policeman / Policewoman has to play three major roles. As a guardian of Society, he/she is the sentry at the gates protecting the community against dangerous criminals. Secondly, as an instrument of the law, he / she, is an umpire required to apply impersonally a set of rules to make possible orderly social transactions in the community. Thirdly, as a public servant, he / she is a friend-in-need who performs duties which are not part of law enforcement such as finding lost children or pushing stranded cars.

No wonder, a learned person said,"The citizen expects Police Officers to have the wisdom of Solomon; the strength of Samson; the patience of Job; the leadership of Moses; the kindness of the Good Samaritan," and so on and so forth.

Such lofty and sometimes unrealistic expectations place a heavy burden on the shoulders of the Police. But, the Tamil Nadu Police endowed with

professional freedom under my Government have always risen to the challenges. The recent arrest of Fakruddin followed by the operation at Puthur in which two of his associates were arrested without any loss of life was a noteworthy achievement. I have personally congratulated 260 personnel giving away cash rewards ranging from 1 lakh rupees to 15 lakh rupees, apart from the grant of Accelerated Promotion to 20 Police personnel.

While such sensational operations grab headlines there are also numerous instances where your hard toil is taken for granted by the public for example, during the visits of dignitaries facing high levels of threat or anniversary functions of caste leaders or major temple festivals. But, I am aware of the elaborate preparations made and the efforts put in by the Police to make these events go off peacefully. I know the hardships faced by Police personnel. This is why my Government has been particular in taking care of the well being of individual Policemen, welfare of the Force as a whole and the wellness of the Police as a Department.

I also take this opportunity to share some of my priorities with you. When you arrest nine lakh people, an odd death in custody here and there may appear to be statistically negligible. But a dead man is not a mere statistic for his loved ones. Instances are reported of suspects dying after suddenly developing

illness while in a Police station or committing suicide while in custody. When the Police are expected to protect the lives of citizens in their homes, work places and in public, it would be a travesty of justice if a citizen dies within the precincts of a Police Station.

Ease of mobility and communication no doubt changes the character of crime. While once the Police were concerned about inter-district criminals, today inter-State and even inter-national criminals, tend to take centre stage. New forms of crime keep surfacing. It is not enough that offenders in heinous crimes are arrested. It must be ensured that bail applications are strongly opposed, cases charge-sheeted quickly and expeditious trial ensured.

I hope today's discussions will bring to the fore not only the problems but also effective and lasting solutions.

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CONCLUDING REMARKS AT THE CONFERENCE OF COLLECTORS AND POLICE OFFICERS HELD ON 13.12.2013

SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE LEADS TO MANIFOLD POSITIVE STEPS

Hon'ble Ministers,

Chief Secretary,

Principal Secretary, Home,

Director General of Police,

Secretaries to Government,

Heads of Departments,

Senior Police Officers,

Commissioners of Police,

District Collectors,

Superintendents of Police and other Officers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

The Conference of District Collectors and Police Officers is an important event in the administrative calendar of the State Government. This Conference provides an opportunity for the District Collectors and Police officers to highlight the progress in implementation of various policy initiatives and schemes announced by the Government. The field officers use this occasion to bring up issues faced by them at the field level in the implementation of policies and schemes. It is also a forum in which the officers learn from each others' efforts and successes. They articulate the specific requirements of their Districts. Such issues, brought to the immediate attention of the highest level of Government can be resolved without delay. For the Government, the Conference is also an occasion to spell out and explain the priorities of the Government and to effectively guide the District

Collectors and Police officers in their functioning. Undoubtedly such discussions substantially enhance administrative effectiveness at various levels.

Judged by these yardsticks, the well-organized Conference this year has been a resounding and grand success. We have had very useful and constructive discussions on several issues concerning the maintenance of Law and Order and different welfare and development schemes implemented by my Government over the last three days.

For me personally, as the Chief Minister of the State, it has been very gratifying to learn how well each one of you has been performing in taking forward my vision for the State. The close and effective co-ordination with which the District Administration and the Police have been functioning is truly commendable and has undoubtedly contributed to the effective maintenance of public order in the State. The free hand which I have provided to maintain law and order has been effectively used by all of you to keep the State incident free and peaceful.

I appreciate the painstaking efforts put in by the Collectors in preparing for the Conference. In particular, the audio-visual presentations were a vindication. They brought out very clearly the benefits that were being actually extended to the people under the different development programmes

and welfare schemes announced by my Government. The diligence, dedication and sincerity each one of you, have brought to your work is an important contribution to the effective implementation of my Government's policy initiatives and schemes.

The District Collectors have placed before me certain proposals for their districts. The number and nature of requests made by the District Collectors clearly shows how well they have assessed the needs of the district and the pulse of the people. Considerable hard work and careful thought have gone into these proposals. They also display your commitment to the amelioration of the hardships faced by the people.

The Police Officers have displayed the professional commitment and dedication which contribute to making the Tamil Nadu Police the best Police Force in the country. Leadership includes many traits. Concern for the welfare of those whom we lead is a very important trait. I was particularly touched by the gesture of some of the young Police officers who in their presentations during the Joint Conference made requests for the provision of basic amenities including drinking water for the Police personnel and their families. This clearly displays how much they care for the welfare of the Police force under their command. I really appreciate the fine leadership qualities that these officers have displayed.

In the last two years based on your requests, I have sanctioned a number of new initiatives. As I pointed out in my inaugural address, my intention is to afford each of you the best possible opportunity and give you the necessary support to provide good governance in your Districts and further my Government's development and welfare agenda. This year as well, based on the proposals you have placed before me, I will be announcing the different initiatives that will be taken up by my Government.

You also must not forget that the resources at the disposal of the Government are not unlimited. We have to perforce prioritize how to deploy the resources that are available. As field officers you must ensure that funds sanctioned are utilized effectively. Assets should be created speedily. Services should be delivered efficiently and expeditiously. It is your duty to ensure that the intended outcomes of all these initiatives are achieved. This is the duty we owe the people in our democracy.

Let me again compliment and congratulate each of you on all the good work that you have done this year. Do not cease your vigil or relent in your efforts. As I mentioned on the first day, we should not rest on our laurels or become complacent. Let this be an occasion to rededicate ourselves to effectively deliver Government schemes and initiatives to the people who are the ultimate masters in our great

democracy. I exhort you to perform even better in the coming year.

Now, I am happy to make the following announcements which have emerged as the outcome of the deliberations of this three day Conference.

1. New Buildings will be sanctioned for Vadavalli, Annur and Madukkarai Police Stations in Coimbatore District.
2. A Camp office-cum-residence building will be sanctioned for D.S.P., Perur in Coimbatore District.
3. A new Police Sub-division will be created in Karumathampatti, Coimbatore District.
4. Police personnel who have completed 40 years of age will be provided Master health check-up once in a year free of cost at Government Hospitals.
5. New barracks for AR will be sanctioned for Coimbatore City.
6. A new Building will be sanctioned for Bhuvanagiri Police Station in Cuddalore District.

7. An office-cum-residence building will be sanctioned for DSP, Thittakudi in Cuddalore District.

8. A new office building will be sanctioned for Jayamkondam Traffic Police Station in Ariyalur District.

9. A post of Special Branch Inspector for Ariyalur District will be created by re-deployment.

10. Strength of police personnel in Prohibition Enforcement Wing in Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Villupuram Districts will be augmented by way of re-deployment.

11. A new office building will be sanctioned for Dindigul Rural Sub Division.

12. A new building will be sanctioned for In-service Training Centre in Dindigul.

13. A new building will be sanctioned for the Silaiman Police Station in Madurai District.

14. An office-cum-residence building will be sanctioned for D.S.P., Oomachikulam in Madurai District.

15. 6 new bore wells will be sunk in the Police quarters in Madurai City to meet the water requirements of Police Personnel.

16. Deputy Commissioners of Police in all Cities will be given magisterial powers under 107, 108, 110 Cr. P.C., as in the case of Chennai City Police.

17. A water lorry will be sanctioned for Madurai City Police for providing water to police quarters.

18. A new Taluk Hospital will be sanctioned for Tiruverumbur in Trichirappalli District.

19. A new building will be sanctioned for Srirangam L&O, Crime and Traffic Police Stations in Trichy City.

20. A post of Traffic Inspector will be sanctioned for Srirangam in Trichy City.

21. Barracks for A.R. police personnel will be sanctioned for Trichy City.

22. Prohibition Enforcement Wing Units will be sanctioned for Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur Districts by re-deployment.

23. Dormitories for accommodating 150 men and 50 women police personnel will be constructed at Melmalayanur.

24. High mast lights will be provided in 35 accident prone areas in the National and State Highways in Villupuram District.

25. A new building will be sanctioned for Sevvur Police Station in Tiruppur District.

26. An office-cum-residence building will be sanctioned for D.S.P., Avinashi in Tiruppur District.

27. A Kennel will be constructed for the dog squad in Tiruppur.

28. Thali, Moolanur and Gudimangalam Police Stations in Tiruppur District now headed by Sub Inspectors will be upgraded to the level of Inspectors.

29. Land for construction of office building for the Tiruppur Police Commissionarate will be provided.

30. A new building will be sanctioned for Tiruppur North Police Station, Traffic Police Station and All Women Police Station.

31. Police Quarters will be sanctioned for the police personnel in Tiruppur Commissionerate.

32. A Link road connecting ring road at KM 18/2 Sunnampu kurampudur and NHAI bypass (NH 67) at Emur – Pudur at km 208/8 of NH 67 (via) Koyampalli – Melapalayam at Karur will be sanctioned.

33. A connecting road at km 299/6 of NH 7 (Sukkaliyur) and NH 67 road at km 224/2 (Thaneerpandal) at Karur will be sanctioned.

34. High level bridge connecting Unniyur in Trichirappalli District and Nerur in Karur District across the river Cauvery will be sanctioned.

35. A new building for Velliyani Police Station will be sanctioned.

36. A new building will be sanctioned for the Rural Sub Divisional Office, Karur.

37. New Buildings for Salem Rural Sub Division and Vazhapadi Sub Division will be sanctioned.

38. New four wheel drive vehicles will be provided for the Yercaud and Karumandurai Inspectors of Police in Salem District.

39. A new building for Melattur Police Station in Thanjavur District will be sanctioned.

40. A new building will be sanctioned for Kabistalam Police Station in Thanjavur District, which is now functioning in a rented building.

41. Land for Karungalpalayam Police Station in Erode District will be provided.

42. A new building for the Office of DSP, Perundurai in Erode District will be sanctioned.

43. Provision of groynes at Mandaikadupudur in Kanniyakumari District will be sanctioned to prevent sea erosion.

44. A new Police Sub Division will be formed at Vandalur by bifurcating Chengalpattu Sub Division.

45. The post of Sub Inspector of Police, Traffic, will be upgraded as Inspector of Police, Traffic in Kancheepuram District.

46. Barracks will be provided at Maraimalai Nagar in Kancheepuram District.

47. Police Standing Orders will be amended re-defining grave offences pertaining to burglary and theft. Burglary over Rs. 2 lakhs in value and Theft over Rs. 3 lakhs in value will be treated as grave offence.

48. Western by-pass road connecting NH7 Tirunelveli – Ambasamudram Road, Tirunelveli - Tenkasi Road and Tirunelveli – Sankarankoil Road will be sanctioned.

49. High level bridge across Tamirabarani River parallel to Old Bridge at 150/2 of Madurai – Kanniyakumari Road connecting link between Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai will be sanctioned.

50. An electric crematorium at Nambithalaivan in Tirunelveli District will be sanctioned.

51. Central Bus Stand for Tiruvannamalai will be sanctioned.

52. By-pass road at Vettavalam Town Panchayat will be sanctioned.

53. High level bridge across the Kamandalnaganathi at Padavedu Panchayat in Tiruvannamalai District will be sanctioned.

54. Car Parks will be provided in all the nine major roads leading to Tiruvannamalai.

55. Quarters will be constructed for the police personnel of Pallipalayam and Kumarapalayam Police Stations in Namakkal District.

56. Compound wall for A.R. Complex, Pudukkottai will be provided.

57. A new building will be sanctioned for Pon Amaravathi Police Station in Pudukkottai District.

58. A new building will be sanctioned for the All Women Police Station, Tirumayam in Pudukkottai District.

59. A new building will be sanctioned for Kottaipatinam Sub Divisional Office.

60. A new building will be sanctioned for Jeeyarpuram All Women Police Station.

61. A new building will be sanctioned for Tiruverumbur Traffic Police Station.

62. New buildings will be sanctioned for Edaiyur and Thevangudi Police Stations in Tiruvarur District.

63. New buildings will be sanctioned for Vedaranyam and Vettaikaraniruppu Police Stations in Nagapattinam District.

64. A Police Officer in each Police Station will be designated as Liaison Officer to interact with the Panchayat President and others in the village to collect information on law and order issues in all districts.

65. A Camp Office-cum-Residence building will be sanctioned for DSP, Tiruvadanai in Ramanathapuram District.

66. A Sewage Treatment Plant in A.R. Complex, Ramanathapuram will be established by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation.

67. Barracks will be provided at Hosur in Krishnagiri District.

68. A new building will be sanctioned for Uthangarai Sub Divisional Office in Krishnagiri District.

69. A new building will be sanctioned for Soolagiri Police Station in Krishnagiri District.

70. An Arts & Science College will be established at Veppanthattai in Perambalur District.

71. A Camp Office-cum-residence building will be sanctioned for the Sub Divisional Office at Mangalamedu in Perambalur District.

72. A new building will be sanctioned for V. Kalattur Police Station in Perambalur District.

73. Additional posts will be sanctioned to augment the strength in the Police Stations in Greater Chennai.

74. In ‘Hit and Run’ cases, a solatium of Rs. 50,000 is given for death and Rs. 10,000 for grievous injury. This will be enhanced to Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh respectively.

75. Full pants with full sleeve shirts for boys and Salwar Kameez with over coat for girls studying in Standards 1st to 5th in the Nilgiris District will be provided.

76. A Water Supply Scheme to Coonoor Municipality will be formulated with Emerald Dam as source.

77. Grants under the THAI Scheme will be enhanced to the Village Panchayats having more than 50 habitations.

78. Two additional Mobile Medical Units will be sanctioned for the Nilgiris District.

79. Hill Allowance for Govt. employees will be increased to Rs. 1,500 per month.

80. Winter Allowance for Govt. employees will be increased to Rs. 500 per month.

81. 25 Staff Quarters will be constructed in the Nilgiris District for Group A and Group B Officers.

82. Infrastructure Facilities will be provided to improve tourism at “Top Station” in Bodi Taluk in Theni District.

83. A 110/22 KV Sub Station will be sanctioned for Kandamanur Vilaku, near Andipatti Medical College Hospital in Theni District.

84. Check Dams will be constructed across the Vaigai River at Vaaliparai and Govindanagaram.

85. Amma Unavagam will be established at Sivagangai Government Medical College Hospital.

86. The Community Centre at Thirupuvanam in Sivagangai District will be upgraded into Taluk Headquarters Hospital.

87. An Accident and Emergency Block will be set up in the Government Sivagangai Medical College Hospital.

88. A Government School Girls' Hostel will be established in Kalayarkoil, Sivagangai Taluk.

89. A High level bridge will be constructed at KM 2/8 of Kannangudi – Kookudi road across Virusuzhi River in Sivagangai District.

90. A 110 / 22 KV Sub Station will be sanctioned for Amaravathypudur, Karaikudi Taluk in Sivagangai District.

91. A 110 / 22 KV Sub Station will be sanctioned for Poosalakudi in Kannangudi Block in Sivagangai District.

92. 150 Community Borewells with 15 HP pumpsets will be sanctioned for Sivagangai District.

93. A new Bridge will be constructed at KM 2/4 of Velarenthal-Kodikarai Road across Nattarkal in Kalayarkoil Block in Sivagangai District.

94. A new High Level Bridge will be constructed across Manimuthar River in Kurunthampattu-Oogampatti Road in Kurunthampattu Panchayat, Sivagangai District.

95. Town Settlement in Sivagangai Municipality will be introduced.

96. A road from Thoothukudi to Vanchi Maniyachi Junction will be formed.

97. Madurai – Thoothukudi Road from KM 130/4 to 133/2 will be widened.

98. The Rail Over Bridge at KM 5/4 of Thoothukudi-Quilon Road will be widened.

99. A Respiratory Medical Unit for occupational lung disease will be established in Thoothukudi District.

100. A new programme will be sanctioned to reduce higher order birth in Coastal areas of Thoothukudi District.

101. A special programme will be sanctioned for control of Malaria and other Vector Borne diseases in endemic coastal villages in Thoothukudi District.

102. Check Dam will be constructed at Tamiraparani River near Mukkani.

103. Underground Sewerage System will be sanctioned for Poonamallee Municipality in Tiruvallur District.

104. A new Modern Integrated Bus Stand will be established at Tiruvallur.

105. A Check Dam will be constructed across Kosasthalaiyar river. A Channel will be provided to supply water to Veera Raghava Perumal Tank in Tiruvallur.

106. Tenements at Thiruchinakuppam in Tiruvallur District will be reconstructed.

107. A Drain cum Foot Path will be constructed in the pilgrim centres at Tiruvallur and Tiruttani.

108. A study will be undertaken for the permanent stability for bar mouth with groynes for Pulicat lake.

109. Taluk Office buildings will be constructed for the newly created Tiruvottriyur and Maduravoyal Taluks.

110. Four Transaction sheds will be provided at Ammoor Regulated Market Committee in Vellore District.

111. Rural Youth Groups will be promoted for farm mechanization in Vellore District.

112. Taluk Office buildings will be constructed for the newly created Natrampalli and Anaicut Taluks in Vellore District.

113. By-pass road to Aruppukottai Town on its western area to connect existing four lane NH 45B will be sanctioned.

114. Tiruthangal Primary Health Centre will be upgraded as Taluk Headquarters Hospital.

115. A new Rail Over Bridge will be constructed across the Sivakasi-Tenkasi and Sivakasi – Srivilliputhur State Highways Road within the limit of Anaiyur Panchayat in Sivakasi Town in Virudhunagar District.

116. A new Railway Over Bridge will constructed across the Rajapalayam - Tenkasi Broad gauge railway line crossing Rajapalayam – Alangulam State Highways road within the limits of Rajapalayam Municipal Town.

117. A High level Bridge will be constructed at KM 0/8 of Thandarai – Eraiyur Road across Cheyyar river in Tiruvannamalai District.

118. A Cause way will be constructed at Othalavadi Panchayat in Polur taluk at 1/8 Kms in Tiruvannamalai District.

119. Infrastructure facilities will be provided to compost yard at Agaram Sibbandi in Tiruvannamalai District.

120. 8 tanks in Tiruvarur District will be renovated.

121. Desilting work will be taken up in Kamalalayam Tank in Tiruvarur Town.

122. Moonaru Thalaippu of Needamangalam Taluk in Tiruvarur District will be developed as a Tourist spot.

123. New Primary Health Centre at R.Kombi Village in Vedasandur Taluk will be formed.

124. CWSS to 124 villages in Palani Union, 218 villages in Thopampatti Union, Palani Municipality,

Keeranur and Neikkarpatti Town Panchayats will be sanctioned.

125. Drinking water to the Batalakundu Town Panchayat from Vaigai Dam will be provided.

126. 2 major check dams at Kodaganar River will be constructed in Dindigul District.

127. 3 major check dams at Santhanavarthani river will be constructed in Dindigul District.

128. Roads in and around Palani Municipal area, Ayakudi and Balasumutram town panchayats will be improved and widened.

129. Roads in and around Dindigul Municipal area will be improved and widened.

130. Road from Boothakudi (Natham Taluk) to Dindigul for the benefit of Palani pedestrian pilgrims will be improved and widened.

131. Building for newly bifurcated Taluk – Dindigul (East) at Dindigul will be constructed.

132. A new office building will be constructed for the Krishnagiri Taluk Office.

133. A High Level Bridge will be constructed at Pathakotta in Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District.

134. The post of Taluk Supply Officer in Hosur Taluk will be upgraded to the level of Tahsildar.

135. A new BC Hostel will be sanctioned in Hosur, Krishnagiri District for College Girls Students.

136. A new College Girls' Hostel will be sanctioned in Krishnagiri District for Adi Dravidar students.

137. A Hostel for Adi Dravidar Girls will be established at Thali in Krishnagiri District.

138. Banana Cultivation – Ripening chamber for Banana using ethelyne gas will be constructed at Thiruvaiyaru.

139. Basic amenities and infrastructure development works in Kumbakonam Municipality will be undertaken for Mahamaham.

140. Civic Amenities in the Thanjavur Corporation will be improved.

141. A Bridge will be constructed at Kallanai across the Coleroon river.

142. A Girls College Hostel will be established in Orathanad, Thanjavur District.

143. A Bio-methonation Plant using water hyacinth and IPOMEA will be sanctioned for Thanjavur District.

144. A new taluk office Building will be constructed for the newly created Budalur Taluk in Thanjavur District.

145. Renovation work will be undertaken for restoration and preservation of heritage buildings in Pudukottai District.

146. Revenue Sub Divisional Office and quarters will be constructed in Pudukottai District.

147. Thirumayam – Virachilai – Panayapatti road from 0/0 km – 12/0 km will be reconstructed.

148. Aranthangi – Kammangadu road from 0/0 km to 9/2 km will be reconstructed.

149. Pulivalam – Sengeerai Road and Pulivalam – Virachilai Road in Pudukottai District will be widened and improved.

150. Five Cashew Processing Units will be established in Ariyalur District.

151. Four Bulk Cooler Units with a capacity of 5,000 litres each will be established in Ariyalur District.

152. A Compost Yard will be established in Jeyankondam Municipality in Ariyalur District.

153. A building will be constructed for the Elementary School at Koppiliyankudikadu in Ariyalur Block.

154. A new building will be sanctioned for Panchayat Union Primary School at Kudisal in Ariyalur Block.

155. A new building will be sanctioned for Panchayat Union Middle School at Kallakudi in Ariyalur Block.

156. A Bridge will be constructed across Vellar river at Kottaikadu in Ariyalur District.

157. 22 Km. Road from Sendurai to Kottaikadu connecting Virudhachalam – Thozhuthur Road will be rebuilt.

158. Facilities will be improved in the Bird Sanctuary at Karaivetti Village in Thirumanur Block in Ariyalur District.

159. A Godown with a capacity of 50,000 MT will be constructed in Mayiladuthurai in Nagapattinam District.

160. Feeding charges for the inmates in orphanages will be enhanced from Rs. 450/- to Rs. 750/- per month on par with BC and ADW Hostels.

161. 44 Reverse Osmosis Units will be put up to tackle the water shortage in Nagapattinam.

162. 1,200 Drinking Water Ooranies will be renovated in Ramanathapuram District.

163. A new building will be sanctioned for Nursing School and Hostel in Ramanathapuram District.

164. Necessary funds will be sanctioned for anti-sea erosion works in Rameswaram Town, Seeniyappa Dargah, Mullimunai and Karangudu villages.

165. A Circuit House will be sanctioned for Rameswaram.

166. A Fishing Harbour will be sanctioned for Rameswaram.

167. Fish Landing Centres will be constructed at Dhanushkodi, T.Mariyur, Pamban, Muguntharayarchatram, Thangachimadam and Vedhalai.

168. 755 Panchayat Union Tanks and 437 Ex. Zamin Tanks in Ramanathapuram District will be renovated to the standards of PWD Tanks.

169. An Integrated Market Complex will be constructed for chilly in Ramanathapuram District.

170. A By-pass Road will be sanctioned for Kamudhi Town in Ramanathapuram District.

171. Feasibility Study will be undertaken for establishment of an Integrated Bus Terminus at Gandhipuram, Coimbatore District.

172. Feasibility Study will be undertaken for Mono Rail in Coimbatore City.

173. Check dams will be constructed in six places in Coimbatore District for artificial recharge.

174. A flyover will be constructed in Pollachi Municipality.

175. Taluk Office Buildings will be sanctioned for newly created Taluks viz. Perur and Madukkarai.

176. Additional Godown at Theroor for Paddy with capacity of 1000 MT storage will be constructed in Kanniyakumari District.

177. Additional Godown at Manavalakurichi for Paddy with capacity of 500 MT storage will be constructed in Kanniyakumari District.

178. Main Circuit House and Bharathi Guest House in Kanyakumari will be improved and renovated.

179. By-pass to Suchindrum Town with 1 major bridge, 19 culverts, 3.55 km new 2 lane road will be formed in Kanniyakumari District.

180. Spices complex in Thovalai Taluk will be setup.

181. Anaikarai – Aruvikavai bridge across Paraliyar river will be constructed.

182. Kadayal-Pechiparai bridge at Chakarapani thottipalam across Thamiraparani river will be constructed.

183. New office buildings will be constructed for Chidambaram Taluk Office and Sub Collector's office.

184. A new taluk office building will be constructed for the newly created Veppur Taluk.

185. A High level bridge will be constructed at km 3/8 of Thittakudi – Sirupakkam road.

186. Artificial Recharge Structures will be sanctioned in 10 places in Trichirappalli District.

187. Tanks, Anaicuts and Supply channels will be renovated in four places in Trichirappalli District.

188. Sanction will be accorded for repairs, renovation and restoration of tanks in six places in Trichirappalli District.

189. A scheme for conservation of Aquatic Eco Systems in Thuraiyur Small Tank in Trichirappalli District will be formulated.

190. Tiruchirappalli – Namakkal Road, Thuraiyur – Perambalur Road, and Musiri-Thuraiyur-Athur Road in Trichirappalli District will be improved.

191. Investigation will be taken up for Combined Water Supply Scheme for Thuraiyur, Thathanyangarpettai and Uppiliyapuram covering 293 habitations.

192. Investigation will be taken up for Combined Water Supply Scheme for Marungapuri and Vaiyampatti covering 135 habitations in Trichirappalli District.

193. New buildings will be sanctioned for five new Taluk offices at Chennai.

194. Vehicles will be sanctioned for 10 Social Security Scheme Tahsildars at Chennai.

195. Sub-surface dykes across Palar River at Palur Village in Chengalpet Taluk will be constructed.

196. Trauma care ward in Government Head Quarters Hospital, Kancheepuram will be formed.

197. Investigation will be taken up for Coastal erosion control in Kancheepuram District.

198. Underground Sewerage System will be sanctioned for Dharmapuri Municipality.

199. A Canal will be constructed for diversion of surplus flood water of Chinnar River from Senganbasuvanthalav Tank to feed 10 Tanks in Palacode Taluk.

200. A Canal will be constructed for diversion of flood water of Bettamugilalam Pallam to Kesergulihalla Reservoir in Palacode Taluk.

201. Primary Health Centres in Valavanthi, Malliakarai, Vadugapathy and Chittor will be upgraded as 30 bedded hospitals.

202. New Primary Health Centres will be established in Kootathupatti of Ayothiyapattinam Block,

Mattiayampatti of Thamangalam Block, Pachanmpatti of Omalur Block, Sowriyur of Nangavalli Block and Soolankurichi of Pethanaickenpalayam Block in Salem District.

203. New Office Building will be constructed for Salem and Mettur Taluk Offices.

204. Basic Infrastructure facilities will be provided for the schools in Vadugapatti, Vellar, Karipatti and Veppampoondi in Salem District.

205. Seed Godowns will be constructed at Panamarathupatti and Thalaivasal in Salem District.

206. Fertiliser Control Laboratory will be constructed at Seelanaickenpatti in Salem District.

207. Road from Yercaud to Danishpet will be completed.

208. Cold Storage will be sanctioned in Vazhapadi Taluk.

209. Sentharapatti Tank will be developed as a drinking water source.

210. Link Road will be laid between Yercaud and Kondaiyanoor.

211. Avarai Village in Yercaud Taluk will be fully electrified.

212. A new building will be constructed for the newly created Salem (South) and Salem (West) Taluks.

213. Taluk Office Building for newly formed Tiruppur (South) Taluk will be constructed.

214. Taluk Office Building for newly formed Uthukuli Taluk Office will be constructed.

215. High Level Bridge will be constructed to ease traffic congestion opposite to Tiruppur Old Bus Stand.

216. A High Level Bridge will be constructed in Pudhupalapattu – Vadapalapattu across Maniyar River in Villupuram District.

217. A High Level Bridge will be constructed in Mattaparai Road across Mukthar and Maniyar Rivers in Villupuram District.

218. A High Level Bridge will be constructed in Manjaputhur - Periyanayagi Amman Koil road across Manimuktha river in Villupuram District.

219. A High Level Bridge will be constructed in Kaniyamur – Kumbakottai to VP Agaram road in Villupuram District.

220. A High Level Bridge will be constructed at Eduthavainatham – Ambedkar Colony – Kosapadi Road across Muthar in Villupuram District.

221. A High Level Bridge will be constructed in Pudhur – Kumulam Road across Pambar river in Villupuram District.

222. Manampoondi Block will be created by bifurcating Mugaiyur Block in Villupuram District.

223. Kiliyanur Block will be created by bifurcating Vanur Block in Villupuram District.

224. End to end of old NH road from 160/0 km – 162/6 km of Villupuram Urban limit will be widened and improved.

225. Thathikulam – Melmalayanur road in 4/0 km to 8/2 km in Villupuram District will be widened from single lane to Intermediate lane and improved.

226. Valathy – Avalurpet road in Villupuram District will be widened from Intermediate lane to double lane from km 6/4 to 16/4 km.

227. Sathampadi – Kaplampadi road in Villupuram District will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane from 2/2 km to 9/7 km.

228. Gingee – Vadapalai Road in Villupuram District will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane from 8/0 km to 12/8 km.

229. Vadapalai – Thorapadi Road in Villupuram District will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane from 0/0 km to 2/4 km.

230. Thorapadi - Melmalayanur Road in Villupuram District will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane from 0/0 km to 2/0 km.

231. Perumbakkam – Thiruvakkarai – Kodukkur road will be widened from intermediate lane to double lane from 0/0 km to 7/0 km.

232. Tiruvakkarai-Senipattu road will be widened from single lane to intermediate lane from 0/0 km to 0/7 km.

233. A High Level Bridge will be constructed across Sankaraparani river at Rettanai – Marur road in Villupuram District.

234. A High Level Bridge will be constructed across Thondiyar river at Vellimedupettai Mailam Road to Thenputhur in Villupuram District.

235. Kallakurichi – Thiruvannamalai Road from KM 6/6 to 8/0, 13/0 to 13/4 and 14/4 to 23/0 in Villupuram District will be strengthened.

236. Kanchirapalayam – Vellimalai Road from KM 0/0 to 8/2 in Villupuram District will be widened and strengthened from Intermediate lane to double lane.

237. Cuddalore – Thirukoilur – Sankarapuram Road from KM 33/187 to 40/0 in Villupuram District will be strengthened.

238. Virudhachalam – Ulundurpet – Villupuram Road from KM 21/6 to 27/850 in Villupuram District will be strengthened.

239. Mangalampettai – Elavanasurkottai Road from KM 15/8 to 28/4 in Villupuram District will be widened and strengthened from single lane to intermediate lane.

240. Chinnasalem – Koogaiyur Road from KM 2/8 to 12/4 in Villupuram District will be widened and strengthened from single lane to intermediate lane.

241. Thirukoilur – Vettavalam Road from KM 0/0 to 9/6 in Villupuram District will be strengthened.

242. Arakandanallur - Ayandur Road from KM 0/0 to 17/6 in Villupuram District will be widened and strengthened from single lane to intermediate lane.

243. Kandachipuram - Arakandanallur Road from KM 0/0 to 9/2 in Villupuram District will be strengthened.

244. A High Level Bridge will be constructed at Arunkurukki Road across Gedilam river in Villupuram District.

245. Primary Health Centres will be established at Hongalvadi, Sengulam and Kadambur in Erode District.

246. 14 Tanks and 2 Anaicuts in Uppar Nandaiyar and Maruthayar sub basin in Perambalur District will be modernized and restoration work taken up.

247. Regulated Marketing Committee in Perambalur will be created by bifurcating Regulated Marketing Committee at Trichy.

248. A Bridge at 4/8 km of NH to Kaipadi Road across Maruthayuar river in Perambalur District will be sanctioned.

249. Major District Road at Alathur – Ariyalur Road will be upgraded to the level of State Highways standard.

250. Other District Roads at Krishnapuram - Venbavur Periavadakarai – Kaikalathur - Pillangulam, Pillangulam to Googaiyur in Perambalur will be upgraded to the level of Major District Roads.

251. Other District Roads at Sendurai-Anganur-Nakkambadi-Puduvettakudi-Nannai-Eraiyur in Perambalur will be upgraded to the level of State Highways.

252. OP Block, Dialysis Ward and Ophthalmic Ward will be established at Government Hospital, Usilampatty in Madurai District.

253. A Dialysis Unit will be established at Government Hospital, Melur in Madurai District.

254. Therkkar River from Sathankudi Anicut to Melakottai in Thirumangalam Taluk will be regraded.

255. Permanent Restoration and Flood Protection works will be undertaken in Aanaipappankulam Tank surplus course of Thirumangalam Town.

256. Underpass will be provided at Ring Road and Sivagangai Road Junction in Madurai District.

257. A High Level Bridge will be constructed across Vaigai river connecting Paravi and Thuvariman.

258. Rail Over Bridge will be constructed in Madurai City at Chinthamani at 0/7 km of Madurai and Silaiman Railway Station.

259. A road will be formed in the left bank of Vaigai river connecting Kurivikaran Salai Bridge and PTR Bridge in Madurai District.

260. Amma Unavagam will be opened at Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai.

261. New office buildings will be constructed for the newly created Madurai West, Madurai East and Tiruparankundram Taluks.

262. A Rail Under Bridge will be constructed near S.P.B. Mills, Pallipalayam in Namakkal District.

263. A new water supply improvement scheme will be formulated for Namakkal Municipality.

264. A new Bus Stand will be established in Namakkal Town.

265. New buildings will be constructed for 53 Health Sub Centres in Karur District.

266. 14 Additional Buildings will be constructed for High and Higher Secondary Schools in Karur District.

267. A new supply channel will be formed from Kathirikapalayam odai to Uppukarai to feed Santhapadi Tank in Karur District.

268. Staff Nurse Quarters will be constructed for Primary Health Centres in Karur District where the number of deliveries are more than 10 per month.

269. 534 ICDS Centres will be constructed in Karur District.

270. Additional Class Rooms and toilets will be constructed in Government Arts College, Karur.

271. Investigation will be undertaken for Combined Water Supply Scheme in Thanthoni Panchayat

Union covering 267 rural habitations in 14 Panchayats of Karur District.

272. A building will be constructed for newly created Manmangalam Taluk Office of Karur District.

273. A new water tank will be constructed for the Armed Reserve Quarters in Sivagangai District.

274. A Generator will be provided to the District Police Office, Sivagangai District.

275. Necessary roads will be laid within the Armed Reserve Complex in Sivagangai District.

276. The police personnel in the Nilgiris District will be supplied with blue jackets in lieu of blue jersey supplied now.

277. Blue great coats are now being supplied once in ten years to the Police Personnel in Nilgiris District. Henceforth, it will be supplied once in three years.

278. A building will be sanctioned for Allinagaram Police Station in Theni Sub Division, Theni District, which is now functioning in a rented building.

279. A building will be sanctioned for Thenkarai Police Station in Periyakulam Sub Division,

Theni District which is now functioning in a rented building.

280. A new building will be sanctioned for the TiruchendurTalukPoliceStationinThoothukudi District.

281. Repairs to the A.R. Ground in Vellore District will be taken up to guard against flooding and water stagnation and a track will also be laid in the ground.

282. The five border check posts of Vellore District will be equipped with CCTV and other Infrastructure facilities.

283. 7 76 Personnel in Special Investigation Team and infrastructure will be redeployed to SID, CBCID to strengthen the investigation and trial regarding cases pertaining to fundamentalists.

284. Cyber Crime Unit in CBCID will be strengthened by providing necessary hardware and software.

285. Training Allowance now given to DSPs in In-service Training Centres will be extended to other personnel of these units who are not getting this allowance.

286. A post of Commandant will be sanctioned for the Coastal Security Group for effective maintenance of fast interceptor boats. This post will be filled up on deputation from the Indian Navy or Coast Guard.

287. Digital File Management System will be provided to SB CID for easy retrieval of information.

288. A Sedan type bullet resistant car will be procured for the use of VVIPs.

289. A special allocation of Rs. 50 lakhs will be made to Security Branch for carrying out repairs to security equipment.

290. Necessary land will be allotted to the Fire and Rescue Services Department for constructing a building for the T.Nagar Fire & Rescue Services Station.

291. The financial powers of the Director, Joint Director and Deputy Director of the Fire and Rescue Services Department will be suitably enhanced in tune with the current needs for repair of vehicles.

292. Additional building will be sanctioned at Saidapet and Poonamallee Sub Jails to

accommodate 100 persons additionally in each place.

293. A post of DIG, Prisons will be sanctioned for Vellore.

294. House Building Advance will be given for 35 prison staff who have been allotted houses in the Melakottaiyur Own Your House Scheme.

295. Repair work will be taken up for the sewage system in Marudam Complex, Chennai.

296. Protection wall and baffling system will be provided for the firing range at Marudam complex, Chennai.

297. Soft Air Training Guns will be sanctioned for the Tamil Nadu Commando Force for training the Quick Response Teams.

298. Special I.D. Cards incorporating security features will be provided to all police personnel.

299. An Office Building will be sanctioned for the Civil Supplies CID.

300. Risk Allowance will be sanctioned for the State Crimes Records Bureau personnel.

301. A new building will be sanctioned for the SCRB / Technical Services.

302. 110 High Quality Finger Print Kit Boxes will be supplied to the Single Digit Finger Print Bureaux.

303. 27 posts of DSP in the Social Justice and Human Rights Wing will be created by surrendering 27 posts of Inspector.

304. One post of AIG in the Social Justice and Human Rights Wing will be created.

305. Hardship Allowance of Rs. 900/- per month will be sanctioned for the Special Task Force Personnel.

306. Bell of Arms for safe storage of weapons will be sanctioned for two battalions of Tamil Nadu Special Police.

307. Administrative Building for two TSP Battalions will be sanctioned.

308. A Revolving Fund of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum will be provided for conducting training courses at the Police Computer Communication Centre.

309. An H.F. Data Network will be sanctioned for the Police Department to improve communication.

310. 300 VHF Static Sets, 600 VHF Mobile Sets, 1200 Handheld Sets and 128 VHF Repeaters will be sanctioned for the Police Department.

311. Heavy Duty Pressure Cookers will be provided to the Armed Reserve at a cost of Rs. 16 lakhs.

312. A web-based SMS Server System will be provided for the Police Department.

The following requests made by the Collectors and Police Officers require detailed examination and these will be examined separately and suitable orders issued.

1. Amendment to Section 167 Cr. P.C.
2. Amendment to certain Sections of the Explosives Rules.
3. Installation of statues in private places.
4. Sanction of Educational Loan by Co-operative Banks.
5. Access to data maintained by the Registration Department to the officials of the Revenue Department.

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SPEECH DELIVERED DURING THE MEETING WITH THE 14TH FINANCE COMMISSION HELD AT CHENNAI ON 16.12.2013

Fourteenth Finance Commission exhorted to take a bold approach

CHIEF MINISTER CALLS FOR PARADIGM SHIFT IN CENTRE-STATE FINANCIAL RELATIONS

Hon'ble Chairman of the Fourteenth Finance Commission
Dr. Y. V. Reddy,

Hon'ble Members of the Fourteenth Finance Commission Srimathi Sushama Nath
Dr.Govinda Rao and Dr Sudipto Mundle,

Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Shri A.N. Jha, Secretary of the Commission,

Chief Secretary, Thirumathi Sheela Balakrishnan,

Senior officials of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, and

Officers of the State Government,

Vanakkam.

At the outset let me extend a very warm welcome to the distinguished Chairman and Members and the officials of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. This Commission includes a constellation of eminent persons. It combines and balances the deep knowledge of sound theoreticians of public finance with the thorough understanding of seasoned practitioners of political economy. Tamil Nadu has the highest respect for and faith in the institution of the Finance Commission.

2. The makers of our Constitution recognized that for reasons of administrative efficiency and convenience more of the taxation powers had to be vested with the Central Government. But the responsibilities for actual delivery of many resource intensive public services -- maintenance of public order, public health, agriculture, education, to name just a few, were vested with the States which are much closer to the people. Such an arrangement was occasioned by many considerations which were

valid when the country had just become independent. These included the overall level of economic development of the country; the variation in the sophistication of administrative institutions found in the different regions of the country; and above all the political situation prevailing at that time. The scars of the traumatic Partition of the country were still fresh. The memories of the herculean efforts undertaken to integrate the erstwhile princely States into the Indian Union and to consolidate the Nation were very recent. Democracy in the country was too nascent.

3. Over the last 63 years since we adopted our Constitution the scenario has changed considerably and for the better. India is now a confident nation and a mature democracy. Undoubtedly economic challenges remain, but they are of a different order –- not those of tackling food scarcity and starvation or of overcoming the handicaps created by a few centuries of colonial rule including the absence of a modern industrial base.

4. Liberalization has unleashed economic forces that make the role of the public sector in direct production activity less significant. The role of the Government at the Centre is now much more that of a facilitator through economic policy making; while the role of the State Governments as providers of public services including maintenance of public order and provision of social and economic infrastructure

has grown. The States have had to spend more to provide a social safety net for the poor in particular. Investors decide the location of industry not on the basis of a license issued by a Central Ministry, but on the basis of whether and where quality public services and infrastructure; including well maintained rule of law and public order; a well-educated, healthy workforce; good quality roads, power and other services are available.

5. Clearly then, the resource needs of the States have increased significantly. More importantly, State Governments, which are engaged in the direct provision of many services, have also demonstrated their greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of such services. Many of the best success stories in service delivery have come from the States. Tamil Nadu has been a front runner. The introduction of the Nutritious Mid-Day Meal programme by Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR; the introduction of Old Age Pension schemes; and the continued implementation of a universal Public Distribution System in which rice is supplied free of cost are some examples of Tamil Nadu's model initiatives.

6. We have also seen a steady shift in real political and economic power away from the Centre. State level parties and leaders are now far more significant players. These should not be seen as centrifugal or fissiparous trends that have to be curbed; but as a manifestation of India's maturing as a nation with

diversity and as a democracy. After all, it takes strong States to make a strong Union.

7. Although the administrative and economic role of the State has grown significantly and a federal polity has become more entrenched changes in Centre-State fiscal relations have clearly not kept pace. States do not receive the predictable, non-discretionary and non-discriminatory flow of resources from the Centre that the Constitution envisages. Only 54 percent of the resource flow to the States flows through the Finance Commission route. The balance flows through Plan assistance and Centrally Sponsored Schemes which unlike Finance Commission devolution have no Constitutional basis and are subject to several vagaries.

8. The approach of the Centre to financing State Plans is very condescending. The share of "Normal Central Assistance", which is the untied formula based allocation, has been whittled down systematically. The States have been placed at the whim and mercy of different Ministries at the Centre to receive scheme tied assistance. Details of even small projects in different sectors have to be sent to different Ministries in Delhi presentations made and specific approval sought. While Tamil Nadu may be more efficient in ensnaring more funds for some of the schemes in such a mechanism I sincerely believe that such discretionary transfers are not just a sub-optimal solution but deeply humiliating for the States. The elected State Governments are

not regarded as equal partners in the development process but as mere local supplicants.

9. The situation is made worse by the fact that Tamil Nadu does not receive its due share in Central Plan funds. According to the Twelfth Plan Document Tamil Nadu receives just 4.328 per cent in fund flow against 5.96 per cent population share as per the 2011 census. Not only does this design of fund flow penalize a better performing State; it also raises a very serious doubt that there is a sinister conspiracy to consciously discriminate against some States in matters of Plan Fund allocation.

10. Plan transfers are also subject to arbitrary mid-year cuts. Year after year we have found that promised releases of funds have not been made. Annual Work Plans are approved for many schemes and the State goes ahead with incurring expenditure to find itself left high and dry later in the year when the Centre cuts back on its allocations and fund releases are not made. This not only hurts the State's fiscal health but also affects effective scheme implementation.

11. **These are the reasons why Tamil Nadu is a very strong votary of the idea that, the greatest proportion if not the entire fund flow from the Centre to the States should be on the basis of the recommendations of the constitutionally mandated Finance Commission rather than through other mechanisms.** We have also found that the State

has actually received just and equitable resolutions to many of its issues only from Constitutional authorities including the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Hence we turn to the Finance Commission.

12. **The Fourteenth Finance Commission is at the cusp of history. It has the opportunity to re-order Centre State financial relations in the Country and make them reflect the contemporary reality of the political economy. I urge the Commission that your approach should not be incremental and self-limiting. I request you to take a bold approach and effect the paradigm shift that is needed at this juncture.**

13. I request the Commission to ensure that discretionary expenditure of the Centre including that of Gross Budgetary Support to the Plan should be kept out of the committed liabilities of the Central Government when the resources available with the Centre for devolution to the States are assessed. The Centre levies a number of cesses and surcharges to avoid sharing the proceeds with the States under Article 270 of the Constitution. They now amount to close to 8 percent of the Centre's Gross Tax Revenue. Hence, cesses and surcharges should also be made shareable. Out of the aggregate resources available with the Centre we believe that at least 50 percent should be made shareable with the States under Article 270. This would appropriately balance the expenditure needs of the States and the Centre. It would also

considerably diminish the scope for discretionary and discriminatory transfers that the Centre often resorts to.

14. The composition of transfers recommended by the Finance Commissions has also changed. It is disquieting that the share of grants under Article 275 has increased to 18.1 percent of the total transfers in the Thirteenth Finance Commission period up from just 7.2 percent in the Seventh Commission's award. This is not a welcome trend. These grants are being tagged with numerous conditions and administered at the discretion of the Central Government. Sometimes the grants are not even received by the States during the award period. Hence, I request the Finance Commission to reverse this trend. Most resources should go to States through the Article 270 tax devolution route. Grants under Article 275 should be limited to meet the needs of equalization and the very specific special requirements of States.

15. The Commission has also been asked to consider the level of subsidies that are required and the equitable sharing of subsidies between the Centre and the States. This is an issue we have dealt with in some detail in the Memorandum. The Centre's main subsidies are for food fertilizers and fuel. In each of these areas, many States and Tamil Nadu in particular already provide high levels of subsidy. Such subsidies are provided primarily

with the overall welfare perspective in mind. It would be very difficult for Tamil Nadu to take on any portion of the Centre's current liabilities on this score without commensurate transfer of resources.

16. Turning now to how individual States have been treated in the allocation of resources I am constrained to state that successive Finance Commissions do not appear to have requited the faith that Tamil Nadu has consistently placed in the institution of the Finance Commission. Tamil Nadu's share of resources transferred based on the recommendations of the Commission have shrunk from 7.68 per cent in the Seventh Commission to 4.98 percent in the Thirteenth Commission. Tamil Nadu was particularly hard hit by the recommendations of the Tenth and the Eleventh Commissions.

17. Tamil Nadu's situation is mirrored in the way many of the better performing States have also been treated. I would submit that this is a flawed trend that needs to be arrested and reversed. The asymmetry in the Constitutional scheme of allocation of functions and of resources straightaway implies that out of vertical transfer of resources from the Centre to the States the largest proportion are required to maintain the continued provision of public services in all States and not just in backward States. The Finance Commission has to ensure adequate allocation based on such needs to all the States.

18. Tamil Nadu's successes in population control; efficiency in tax collection and greater effectiveness in expenditure on development; and other programmes have gone unrewarded by successive Commissions. In fact the State has actually been penalized. At the same time the higher level of growth in the State has brought its own set of challenges in terms of rising aspirations. Resources are needed to ensure that the levels of service provision are upgraded to meet these aspirations – in the area of maintenance of public order; improved delivery of justice; provision of quality roads; water supply; schools and health facilities. Issues arising from intra-State variations in development have to be addressed.

19. Tamil Nadu stands on the brink of a big opportunity, that is also a major challenge, and which presents itself but rarely in the course of economic development. As a result of sustained low birth rates, the State currently enjoys a demographic dividend of having a very high proportion of its population in the working age group, an advantage which may not last very long. Development economists have acknowledged that this demographic structure is a window of opportunity; which if used effectively, could provide a spurt in economic growth. Substantially enhanced investment in social and economic infrastructure is required to take advantage of this window of opportunity before it fades away in a decade or two.

20. It is this limited window of opportunity that I am attempting to capture through the ambitious Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 – an agenda for investment of 15 lakh crore rupees in social and economic infrastructure. Initiatives like the free laptop computer scheme are directed at skill enhancement. The distribution of free fans, mixies and grinders to women heads of poor households is directed at freeing more women from domestic drudgery to enable them to participate in the work force. **The State urgently needs fiscal support at this crucial stage of development. Any tapering of transfers at this critical stage would adversely affect long term growth prospects**. **I am determined that the State should grow prosperous before it grows old. I earnestly request the Finance Commission to support this noble endeavour.**

21. A development that caused us some concern was the setting up of an Expert Committee chaired by Dr Raghuram Rajan to evolve criteria for identifying Backward States and to suggest how the criteria may be reflected in future planning and devolution of funds from the Central Government to the States. Recommending criteria for devolution of funds from the Centre to the States is a function for the Finance Commision under Article 280. A Committee set up by the Union Finance Minister under an executive order can never substitute the constitutionally mandated process of the Finance

Commission. The index of underdevelopment constructed by the Committee rates Tamil Nadu very high. Much as this may be recognition of the sustained developmental efforts taken in the State the index itself is problematic. It cannot be treated as a reflection of the "need" of the States for resources, since funds flow is not the only factor relevant to overcome underdevelopment. This hurriedly drafted Report appears to be a thinly disguised attempt to provide an intellectual justification to the political objectives of the mentor of the exercise. I strongly recommend that the Fourteenth Finance Commission should reject outright the Report of the Expert Committee. The Commission should independently make its recommendations without getting pressured by such misleading and unnecessary inputs.

22. It is in this context, that I make my suggestion for a simple robust and equitable formula for distribution of resources amongst States. One-third weight may be assigned to each of the following criteria:– First Population based on the 1971 Census; second, fiscal discipline including tax effort; and third fiscal capacity distance. Many States would suggest elements of the formula that would suit their own interests. I am sure that you would appreciate that my suggestion is well-balanced and equitable.

23. The 1971 population is the most fair and objective criterion that can be applied to all States. We are very concerned by the indication in the Terms of

Reference that demographic changes post 1971 may also be taken note of. I urge the Commission that States like Tamil Nadu which have fulfilled a national duty in encouraging the small family norm should not be made to suffer by taking note of demographic changes since 1971.

24. Fiscal discipline and tax effort are relevant both to reward States that have done well in maintaining such discipline; and as an incentive for States to perform better. The weight for this criterion has been too low in the recommendations of previous Commissions and needs to be increased to at least match the fiscal capacity distance criterion. Fiscal capacity distance will address the interests of the States which lack the capacity to raise resources of their own. It should also be used to penalize those States which have the taxable capacity but fail to utilize it fully. Hence I believe that my suggestion on the devolution formula presents a well balanced and fair solution.

25. Turning to other issues the Commission has been asked to consider the impact of the proposed Goods and Services Tax on the finances of the Centre and the States and the mechanism for compensation in case of any loss. This issue is already being addressed by the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers. Tamil Nadu has a number of objections to the proposed design of GST under the modified draft Constitutional Amendment Bill. **I am primarily concerned about the impact the proposals have on the fiscal autonomy of the States and the huge**

permanent revenue loss GST is likely to cause to a manufacturing and net exporting State like Tamil Nadu. It was in this context that I made my suggestion of an alternative radical approach. The levy, collection and appropriation of the substitutes for VAT, Central Excise Duty and Service Tax within a State should be delegated completely to the State machinery, with the Central machinery focusing on interstate taxation. Such an approach would adequately address both issues -- of fiscal autonomy and adequate compensation.

26. Tamil Nadu devolves the highest proportion of untied resources to Local Bodies amongst all States expressed as a proportion of revenue receipts or revenue expenditure. Our devolution is more than twice the national level. I suggest that 5 per cent of the divisible pool should be earmarked for local bodies. The proportion for urban local bodies should be determined in line with the urban population of each State. The General Basic Grant component should be at least 80 per cent of the total grant and conditions on the General Performance Grant should be limited and significant and not act as a drag on performance.

27. For calamity relief, I suggest that it is time that the size of the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) is reset in line with the levels of expenditure on disasters in recent years. The Centre should fund the entire amount or at least 90 per cent of the enlarged SDRF. This is amply

justified since the Fund meets only immediate rescue and relief costs and the State Government has to meet the entire cost of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

28. The Terms of Reference for this Commission require it to suggest statutory provisions to insulate the pricing of public utility services like drinking water; irrigation; power; and public transport from policy fluctuations. I am afraid this issue is fraught with many difficulties. I doubt whether referring this issue to the Commission is within the Constitutional mandate since many of these receipts are outside the Consolidated Fund of States. Tamil Nadu is a water starved State and the State Government has the duty to provide this very basic requirement to its people. Hence water cannot always be priced in commercial terms. Hence I do hope the Commission will approach this sensitive issue realistically and not make recommendations that would be un-implementable.

29. Finally, I would like to draw your attention to some of the requirements that the State has towards upgradation of standards of administration and to tackle special problems. Totally the State has requested for 41,408.79 crore rupees as grants including 14 proposals for Upgradation of Standards of Administration; and 10 proposals for State Specific Needs. I would like to briefly highlight a few of the important requests.

30. The Tamil Nadu Police is one of the most professionally competent Police Forces in the Country

and has consistently delivered a stellar performance by ensuring the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the State. To sustain this exemplary record we need to provide resources for the emerging needs of modernization of equipment and updating of technology. Provision of housing for Policemen and Officers close to their place of work is also crucial to improving their effectiveness. Towards these compelling needs, we request the Commission to recommend a grant of 3825 crore rupees. I hope you will consider this favourably.

31. Tamil Nadu is the most urbanized large State in India. Rapid and high volume migration coupled with high housing costs have resulted in an increase in slum population. While the problem is being effectively tackled in the 10 Corporation cities under existing schemes; the slums in Municipalities and in Town Panchayats are still to be covered. We have sought a grant of 7,150 crore rupees for slum upgradation and rehabilitation in Municipalities and Town Panchayats which would cover about 25 percent of the slum population in these areas.

32. Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in Wind Energy and we are now attempting to blaze a new trail by launching a Solar Power Policy with the aim of adding 3000 mega watts of capacity in the next five years. This would add to the existing 7504 mega watts of Wind Capacity cementing Tamil Nadu's position as the national leader in Renewable Energy. Renewable energy generation is highly dispersed and has much

lower load factors. Hence evacuation infrastructure to transmit the power to load centres is much more expensive. Therefore, we request you to support this endeavor by recommending a grant of 2,250 crore rupees.

33. Tamil Nadu is a perennially water scarce State and the need to harvest every drop of rain that falls through rehabilitating traditional water bodies cannot be overstated. We have requested a grant for this purpose and I request substantial assistance for this requirement.

34. I have outlined the major concerns of Tamil Nadu and the proposals that we have. **I would like to emphasize that the Commission needs to make a complete break with the incremental approach of the past. It needs to attempt to match expenditure responsibilities and resource needs and thereafter work out what proportion of the resources needs to be allocated to the States as a whole and to each individual State. A predictable non-discretionary and non discriminatory mechanism has to be put in place.** I thank the Commission for their visit to Tamil Nadu and I hope their stay is both comfortable and rewarding. I look forward to your report eagerly and with the hope that the injustice done to Tamil Nadu by successive Commissions would be undone by you.

Thank You.

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HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER's REPLY REGARDING POWER SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU TO DR. SUDIPTO MUNDLE, MEMBER OF FOURTEENTH FINANCE COMMISSION - 16.12.2013

'TAMIL NADU DOING ITS BEST TO BRIDGE POWER DEFICIT'

Dr. Mundle raised the question of power situation about the gap between demand and supply. I would like to just briefly state a few facts. It is true this Government is facing and tackling a very difficult power situation, a situation of a big gap between demand and supply. But I would like to emphasize with all the force at my command that this situation is not the creation of this Government.

This is my third tenure as Chief Minister. During my first tenure as Chief Minister between 1991-1996, Tamil Nadu was a power surplus State. There were no power cuts. Again during my second tenure as Chief Minister, between 2001 and 2006, Tamil Nadu was a power surplus State. There was no question of any power cuts at that time. When I demited office in 2006, Tamil Nadu was a power surplus State.

We were actually supplying power to other States and earning revenue through that route also. But then when I assumed office again, when I took over as Chief Minister for the third time in 2011, I inherited

a very dismal situation where the power situation had been allowed to plunge to abysmal state.

Many new projects were initiated by my Government between 2001 and 2006. If those projects have been carried forward, if they had been completed, even today Tamil Nadu would have been a power surplus State. But the previous Government ignored all those schemes and did not take any interest in carrying forward those projects or implementing them. There was a perennial power shortage in Tamil Nadu from 2007 onwards, particularly, in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and upto May 2011 when a different Government was administering the State.

At that time, the Government to tide over the situation went in for power purchase. There are different ways that the power can be purchased of which I am sure you are well aware. There are long term agreements, if those long-term agreements have been signed with other States in such a case, the cost of power would have been lower we would have been assured of power supply for a number of years and we would have got priority in the allocation of transmission corridor to us by the Centre. But deliberately, the previous Government went in for short term purchases and so at a time when this Government took over, we faced a dismal situation of nearly 4000 MWs power deficit which was not at all our creation.

We inherited this dismal legacy. We were forced to tackle this. So, at that time, we went in for power

purchase because as you very well know for a new power project to be initiated and then actually gets started, it takes a lot of time. So when we went in for power purchase, we succeeded in negotiating agreements with other States which have power surplus for purchase of power. But then even though, for example, we negotiated an agreement with Gujarat to purchase 500 MWs, there was no room for us in the transmission corridor, because priority was given to other States which had already negotiated long-term agreement and therefore we were able to actually bring only about 100 or 150 MWs to Tamil Nadu. This was the situation.

Then as I already told you, though this is not a political forum I am simply stating facts. We have initiated a number of new power projects which could have got started, could have got commissioned but clearances are deliberately being delayed by the Central Government.

There are many areas where the State Government has got only limited powers. Clearances have to be given by the Central Government which are being denied. For example, for the Kundah Power Project and the Sillahalla Power Project, we are ready, to start but clearances are not being given by the Central Government.

There was an earlier power project which was commissioned during my second tenure as Chief Minister and for that the Central clearance was needed just to take a transmission cable through

about 14 kms of forest land. This had to be given by the Ministry of Environment and Forests at the Centre. It was deliberately delayed for political reasons.

We kept on reminding the Centre. I even wrote several times to the Prime Minister, but there was no response. Finally, after waiting for one and a half years, you must remember that this was a project intended to serve the people and cater to their power needs.

Finally, we had to approach the Supreme Court, move the Supreme Court and only after the Supreme Court gave a direction to the Central Government, the permission was accorded. This is the kind of situation we are facing.

Therefore, I would like to assure you that we are very conscious of the power situation, of the demand and the deficit in the amount we are able to supply but we have tied over the crisis to a large extent. Today, I would say that the gap has been bridged.

From the months of July this year, 2013 upto October 2013 there was no power cut in Tamil Nadu. We had successfully bridged the entire gap between demand and supply in two and a half years and I made a statement on the floor of the Assembly saying that this was possible only due to the Herculean efforts put in by this Government. But then very strangely, immediately after I made this statement on the floor of the House, a number of Central Generating Stations went out of order in Tamil Nadu.

I leave you to draw your own inference from this. Till today, every thermal plant, every power generating plant that is under the control of the State Government is functioning to full capacity. Now again there is a power deficit and that power deficit arises because of certain flaws which have crept in Central Generating Stations and I must say it is very odd that all these have taken place at the same time, simultaneously.

Still we are doing our best and I assure you that in another six months or so, Tamil Nadu will be totally free of power cuts, it will be a power surplus State and the rest of the details will be sent to you by the Finance Secretary.

Thank you.

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SPEECH DELIVERED AT VALEDICTORY FUNCTION OF THE 4TH ALL INDIA POLICE COMMANDO COMPETITION HELD ON 27.1.2014 AT THE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU INDOOR STADIUM, CHENNAI

Chief Minister inspires at finale of all-India Commando meet

'I strive to raise entire Police force to level of Commando units'

Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Mrs. Sheela Balakrishnan, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu,

Mr. Apurva Varma, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Government of Tamil Nadu,

Mr. K. Ramanujam, Director General of Police,

Government of Tamil Nadu,

Mr. Malay Kumar Sinha, Additional Director, Intelligence Bureau, representing the Chairman, Central Co-ordination Committee of the All India Police Duty Meet,

Thiru S.George, Commissioner of Police, Chennai,

Thiru Sanjay Arora, Additional Director General of Police – Operations,

Officers and Men and Women of the Police Force,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

"It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the valedictory function of the 4th All India Police Commando Competition for the year 2013, to felicitate the winners and to give away the awards and encourage those who have not won. The atmosphere here is electric and the exhilaration is palpable and infectious. I am reminded of the words of Swami Vivekananda - I quote: "My countrymen should have muscles of iron, nerves of steel and a mind made of such stuff of which thunder bolts are made" - Unquote. The sight of young men and women powered by the drive to serve their Country and stalking out challenges and forging the will to dare, makes our spirits soar.

This arena brings people from different cultural backgrounds together. Sports essentially denote participation and inclusion. Sports activities bring individuals and organisations together, highlighting commonalities and bridging cultural and ethnic divides. The easy and inherent characteristic of sports of bringing people together, salvaging their strength, reinforcing their resolve to succeed and chartering a unique course for those who are involved makes it a powerful weapon. Sports provide a forum to hone skills like discipline, confidence and leadership and strengthen core principles like acceptance, co-operation and respect. Sports expound the value of effort and teach the participants how to manage victory as well as defeat. These fundamental elements of sports make them a viable and practical tool to attain the goal of national development. Many of the core values inherent in sports are compatible with the principles necessary for development and peace, such as fair play, co-operation, sharing and a healthy respect for opponents. The life skills learned through sports help empower individuals and enhance psycho-social well-being like increased resilience, self-esteem and connection with others.

Events like this competition inculcate a sense of oneness among you and fire the competitiveness in you

to excel in whatever you do. Sport is a great unifying force and the Police need continuous reassessment and reassurance in terms of their mental and physical fitness. These events will help to test their physical agility, mental resilience and serve to enhance these traits which are crucial to policing and indicate their relative levels, urging further accomplishment.

The All India Police Sports Control Board and the Co-ordination Committee of the All India Police Duty Meet, sponsor the conduct of seventeen professional and sports competitions for Police Forces across the country every year, each event being hosted by a different Police Force. These competitions include the Police Duty Meet, Shooting and Commando championships which test skills relating to Police functioning in addition to general events like athletics, aquatics, equestrian sports and various individual and team games.

The Police Commando concept is relatively new. The concept of having an elite commando unit as part of a regular Police Force was first established in the United States in 1967, when the Los Angeles Police Department setup a specialised 'unit' or a Special Weapons And Tactics team (SWAT) tasked to respond to critical situations. These men were skilled in tackling special situations involving hostage rescue,

counter terrorism, search and rescue, plus a host of other specialized tasks which a regular Police Force is not equipped for. So effective have these units been, that today, almost every Police Force in the world has a SWAT team and their basic roles remain the same.

The All India Police Commando Competition is one of the latest additions to the annual Police Sports calendar. It has been included, considering the importance of counter-terrorism skills in the current scenario where terrorism and extremism are emerging as serious threats to internal security. In order to upscale our capabilities to deal with and do away with this menace, it is imperative that all States have a force of well-trained and equipped Commando Units. Most States have raised Commando Units and these outfits need to be kept fighting fit by constant training and upgradation of skills and tactics. The developments in terms of upgradation of skills have to be in line with the expectations of the public at large, as the Police are the most visible and much required public service, involved in safeguarding the lives of the people. Most of the Commando Units are comprised of personnel better trained, better equipped, well led and more motivated components within their respective Forces. Specific needs dictate special dispensations. However, my endeavour as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been to

raise the level of training, equipping, leadership and motivation of the complete Police Force, rather than to create an odd island of excellence in a sea of mediocrity. Yours is a call to a service that requires extreme commitment and demands excellence at all times. Rest assured that you will always enjoy the utmost public gratitude and deepest respect as you take your professionalism to higher levels in terms of integrity, ethics and discipline.

The honour of organizing the All-India Police Commando Competition for the year 2013 has been assigned to the Tamil Nadu Police. This will be the 4th edition of the competition. I am informed that the previous three competitions were hosted by the Border Security Force, Assam Rifles, and the Rajasthan Police. This year, we have received entries from 23 teams from the major Central Para Military Forces and other State Police Forces. Earlier, the focus was on anti-extremist operations in rural and jungle areas, as the majority of insurgencies were in outlying areas. After the terrorist attack at Mumbai in 2008, an urgent need to develop specialization in fighting in built up and closed areas, has arisen. I have been informed that the format of the competition tests a commando team for endurance, physical and mental strength, co-ordination, firing skills, knowledge of

tactics, planning, and capability to operate in compact small teams. A team consisting of 22 personnel is put through a gruelling schedule of fast runs, obstacle courses, reflex shooting, and operations in urban and jungle scenarios. The team has to complete all the events within 4 hours and 45 minutes. This, indeed, is a test of endurance – both physical and mental, and I congratulate the winners and all the teams who have participated in these events for their sheer fortitude, grit and determination.

As this competition also involves participation in simulated urban and jungle operations, it provides an arena to all the Forces to validate their procedures, tactics, techniques and equipment. This, simultaneously, facilitates Commando Forces to learn from each other and upgrade themselves, both in the use of technology and human resources. Abraham Lincoln once said, "If you give me six hours to chop down a tree, I will spend the first four sharpening my axe." This is exactly what we are expected to do, in forming a highly competent team of committed commandos. Our commandos are the axe. The conduct of more such competitions and skill upgradation are the needs of the hour.

It gives me great satisfaction that the Tamil Nadu Police are hosting the event at the Tamil Nadu Police

Academy at Oonamanchery, in Chennai. I have sanctioned 94.75 lakh rupees for this event. New infrastructure, including obstacle courses, system of baffles for the range, and electronically controlled targets, has been created at a cost of 50 lakh rupees. These will be permanent additions to the infrastructure of the Academy, for training in obstacle courses and shooting. I am happy to learn that the Tamil Nadu Police are the first to use an electronically controlled reflex shooting range in the competition. We have always been forerunners in the Country, in the use of specialized techniques and equipment. I believe that the contours of internal security are undergoing rapid and unprecedented changes and we cannot afford to be complacently under-equipped. In all my tenures as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, I have never stinted on welfare measures for the Police, and I have ensured that the Tamil Nadu Police get the best state-of-the-art infrastructure, coupled with the latest equipment, and constant training and orientation to perform. Our Commando Units are exposed to techniques of Unconventional Warfare, including extraction, subversion, sabotage, intelligence activities, evasion and escape, and other activities of covert or clandestine nature. Similarly, combat terrorism activities, including the process of anti-terrorism, counter-terrorism, recovery of hostages

or sensitive material from terrorist organisations, attack on terrorist infrastructure, and reduction of vulnerability to terrorism are essentially imparted to these commandos, to counter the myriad forms of terror rearing its ugly head from time to time.

The Tamil Nadu Police, endowed with unfettered professional freedom in my Government, have always risen to the challenges confronting them, and I am proud of them. The manifestation of sound leadership and best training practices have resulted in producing a highly professional and strongly motivated public safety corps. Martin Luther King once said, and I quote - "the ultimate measure of man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and discomfort" - Unquote. Just as fire refines a precious metal, so too, challenges will strengthen and chisel you all into even better officers. A solid demonstration of professionalism and deep sense of responsibility in the realm of public safety, was witnessed in the recent arrest of Fakruddin in the operation at Puthur, in which two of his associates were arrested without any loss of life. This is proof beyond doubt that our Commando outfit is one of the best in the country. I have personally congratulated 260 personnel involved in the operation, giving away cash rewards ranging from 1 lakh rupees to 15 lakh rupees, apart from the grant of accelerated promotion

to 20 Police personnel.

I have been consistently encouraging and motivating Police personnel to excel in all sporting events. I have enhanced the prize incentives given to Police personnel who win laurels for the State. The prize amounts for winners of gold medals, silver medals and bronze medals in the All India Police Sports events were raised ten-fold to 5 lakh rupees, 3 lakh rupees and 2 lakh rupees respectively. In addition, when the Tamil Nadu team gets the winners' trophy or the runners-up trophy, each member of the team is awarded 50,000 rupees and 30,000 rupees respectively.

The nature of your job entails a great amount of personal sacrifice and hard work. More than the thrill of adventure, financial benefit, better perks, or the prospect of faster promotions, the one common thread that binds you all together is your commitment to defend and protect Society. A Policeman / Policewoman is a peacetime soldier, always at war. I commend your courage, commitment and dedication as you continue to work to make the community safe. Your passion and conviction make your lives better lived. I congratulate all the participating teams and each and every member of the various teams, for the spirit you have displayed in participation. I extol the

winning teams, and their members for their excellence in training and motivation and encourage you to continue the winning streak. For those who have not won, nothing is lost. You will return stronger and more determined to conquer the victory stands.

I wish each and every Policeman / Policewoman in these grounds, a long, glorious and rewarding career in the service of the people, and the Nation.

Thank you."

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Speech delivered during the releases of Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 Phase II, Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy 2014, Tamil Nadu Automobile & Auto Components Policy 2014, Tamil Nadu Biotechnology Policy, 2014 and Launches of Official Website of Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board & MoU Signing Ceremony on 21.2.2014 at Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai

Phase II of Vision 2023 released

Unveiling 3 new policies, Tamil Nadu envisages big boost to industry, jobs

Thiru O. Panneerselvam, Minister for Finance and Public Works,

Thiru P. Thangamani, Minister for Industries,

Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Thiru Kris Gopalakrishnan, President CII,

Thiru Venu Srinivasan, Chairman, TVS Motors and Past President, CII,

Thiru Sidharth Birla, President, FICCI,

Thiru Rana Kapoor, President, Assocham,

Tmt Sheela Balakrishnan, Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Thiru C.V Sankar, Principal Secretary, Industries,

Captains and doyens of industry,

Senior officers of the Government of Tamil Nadu,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ever since my Government assumed office for the third time in 2011, I have been tirelessly working towards the completion of the tasks I had enumerated when I laid out the grand Vision 2023 for the State of Tamil Nadu and its people. In that document I had set a target of 14% growth in the Manufacturing Sector every year and an overall investment of 15 lakh crore rupees in all the sectors of the State economy by the year 2023. To achieve the goals relating to manufacturing two sets of MoUs numbering 17 in all were signed in my presence in 2012 committing

an investment of 26,625 crore rupees. Today 16 more MoUs are being signed for industries with a total investment of 5081 crore rupees offering employment to 16,282 persons. With this the total investment envisaged in the 33 MoUs signed so far by my Government in its present tenure is 31,706 crore rupees with an employment potential for over 1,62,667 persons. I have often said that investment is an act of faith based on rational expectations. It is a vote of confidence. I congratulate the investors who have reposed their confidence in Tamil Nadu and I am sure that they would continue to do so.

The greatest challenge before my Government is to steer economic growth through the highly volatile and uncertain global economic scenario prevailing now and the period of domestic slowdown. Even the developed nations are now only slowly coming out of the severe economic crisis while China's Foreign Direct Investment led boom appears to be cooling rapidly.

Yet as a longer term trend the weight of global economic power is shifting inexorably towards Asia particularly India and China. It is my firm conviction that within India, Tamil Nadu would emerge as the epicentreofsuchpower.IhaveavisionforIndiainwhich Tamil Nadu will play a key role -- a vision of a

resurgent India; a Nation with an inclusive society and open markets; a Nation of enterprise and creativity driven by knowledge and shaped by family values; a Nation of growth with equity; a Nation with peace stability and development; a modern secular and prosperous India. I want to assure you all that this day is not far.

It was with this exalted objective in mind that I had released the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 Document. I am fully committed to converting this Vision into reality. In keeping with this commitment today I have released the Second Phase of the Vision 2023 Document containing reports on the sector strategy approach and profiles of infrastructure projects proposed for implementation in the selected sectors. The Document includes profiles of 217 infrastructure projects in six major sectors – Energy; Transport; Industrial and Commercial Infrastructure; Urban Infrastructure and Services; Agriculture; and Human Development. Some of the suggestions received when the Phase-I of the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 Document was released have been addressed in the Phase-II Document. Accordingly the investment envisaged in the Agriculture Sector is being substantially stepped up from 40,000 crore rupees to 1,21,400 crore rupees.

The projected investment in the Human Development Sector has also been increased from 30,000 crore rupees to 59,140 crore rupees. The investment levels in the other critical sectors have been maintained at the levels indicated earlier within the overall projected investment of 15 lakh crore rupees to ensure the attainment of the outcomes expected from the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023.

Tamil Nadu had achieved growth rates of 11.45 per cent in 2004-05 and 13.96 per cent in 2005-06. The growth then fell to 6.13 per cent in 2007-08 and 5.45 per cent in 2008-09. Growth in Tamil Nadu has rebounded in 2013-2014 and is expected to be 6.13 per cent as against 4.14 per cent in 2012-13. The trend has generally been that Tamil Nadu's growth in the upswing period exceeds the all-India growth rates. I have every confidence that I can return Tamil Nadu to double digit growth.

I strongly believe that structural transformation is critical to place Tamil Nadu on a higher growth trajectory. The core of this transformation lies in increasing the share of manufacturing. The share of the manufacturing sub-sector in GSDP is less than 17 per cent now and the Vision 2023, intends to raise it to at least 22 per cent by 2022-23. I believe that while we continue to focus on agriculture and accelerate its growth we must also focus on creating far more jobs in manufacturing.

When my Government assumed office in 2011 the State power utilities were already reeling under a huge debt burden of over 40,000 crore rupees -- a bitter bequest that the previous Government left for us. In the past two years the State Government has allocated substantial resources to revive the State DISCOM to establish more power projects and to increase efficiency in transmission and distribution. Ongoing projects have been fast tracked and generation capacity of more than 2500 MW added to the grid. Procurement action has commenced, for projects with a total capacity of 3300 MW. More capacity addition is also planned. Long and medium term power purchases have also been tied up. The State is a leader in non-conventional energy generation and ranks first in the country in terms of wind energy. To evacuate power from wind mills 400 kilovolt Green Energy Corridors are being set up. My Government also has a comprehensive Solar Power Policy with many new initiatives. The State is also availing of financial assistance from the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA) to upgrade the transmission network in the State. Together all these efforts will go a long way in mitigating the demand-supply gap in the power sector. I am proud to inform you that with all the efforts my Government has taken the State which was severely hit by power

cuts in 2011 will soon overcome the constraints on the availability of power.

I am detailing the above only to demonstrate that my Government is not a Government that merely talks and puts out lofty ideals and policies; it actually gets down to taking hard decisions and staying the course.

Today, I have released 3 new Policies namely Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy 2014; Tamil Nadu Biotechnology Policy 2014; and Tamil Nadu Automobile and Auto Components Policy 2014. On this occasion, I recall the positive impact created by the Industrial Policies released by my Government during 1992 and 2003. The 1992 Industrial Policy paved the way for Chennai to become one of the World's largest auto clusters and the 2003 Industrial Policy triggered the Electronics Industry revolution in Tamil Nadu and today the State has become India's largest exporter of electronic hardware.

My purpose in enunciating the new Industrial Policy, 2014 is to further strengthen Tamil Nadu's competitiveness as a world class manufacturing hub. This policy has innovative features with a focus on creating a business friendly environment with world class infrastructure and a boost to the employment and skill levels obtaining in the State. I am sure

that the Policy will position Tamil Nadu as the most favoured investment destination and help generate over 2 million jobs. I am confident that this Policy will herald a new era of industrialisation and establish Tamil Nadu as one of the major Global Hubs for Manufacturing.

Recognising the importance of the automobile and auto components sector to the State my Government has brought out a separate "Tamil Nadu Automobile and Auto Components Policy, 2014". This policy will focus on the future development and consolidation of the automobile and components industry where Tamil Nadu enjoys a comparative advantage. It aims to generate 5 lakh jobs and make Chennai one of the World's top 5 auto clusters.

While Tamil Nadu enjoys a leadership position in traditional industries like automobiles, engineering goods, textiles, and leather in the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 I had recognised the need to focus on sunrise sectors like biotechnology, aerospace and nanotechnology. With abundant availability of qualified and skilled manpower Tamil Nadu is ideally positioned to progress as a knowledge-driven economy.

Tamil Nadu was one of the few States which saw the potential of biotechnology early and the first

biotechnology incubation park the TIDCO Centre for Life Sciences (TICEL), Biotechnology Park-I in Chennai with technical collaboration from Cornell University, USA became operational in November, 2004. The state-of-the art TICEL-II with a built-up area of 6 lakh square feet with Bio-safety Levels 2 & 3 is fast coming up. In this setting to give an impetus to this emerging industry my Government has brought out the "Tamil Nadu Biotechnology Policy 2014."

To facilitate the speedy implementation of infrastructure projects a policy framework in the form of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Act, Rules and Regulations has been put in place along with the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders (Public Private Partnerships Procurement) Rules. A recent United Nations Report on Probity in Public Procurement has recognized Tamil Nadu as the first State to have a legislative framework to deal with Public Private Partnership procurement. I chair the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board which will be responsible for implementing this policy framework.

As yet another e-governance initiative I have today launched the website of the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board. It will be backed up by a completely automated workflow process.

The investment climate in Tamil Nadu is buoyant. Data published by both the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), and the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India bear ample testimony to this. According to CMIE, incremental investments attracted by Tamil Nadu between June 2011, to January 2014, is 1 lakh 46 thousand and 800 crore rupees. Tamil Nadu has achieved 18.2% growth in investments higher than other States like Gujarat Maharashtra and Karnataka. According to data with the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance (SIA) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion Ministry of Commerce & Industry the cumulative investment approved by the Government of India in Tamil Nadu through the Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) and Letter of Intent (LoI) routes grew by 1,02,908 crore rupees during the 32 month period from May 2011 to December 2013 representing a 32 per cent increase.

Increase in employment is the surest indicator of a vibrant growing economy. Due to the proactive steps taken by my Government the number of workers enrolled with the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has grown from 84 lakh in March 2011 to 1.61 crore in December 2013.

But, I do not rest on my laurels. I want to welcome more and more investment into the State and to this end we intend to organise Tamil Nadu's first Global Investor Meet in the month of October this year and I keenly look forward to your active participation in the event.

Before I conclude I once again congratulate the industries that have signed the MoUs today. You have reposed faith in my Government. I want to assure you all that my Government will extend full support and co-operation to make your ventures a big success as has been the case with hundreds of companies that have flourished in this State.

I urge all the stakeholders to own the Vision and work collectively towards attaining it within the challenging time frame that we have set for ourselves. With everyone interested in Tamil Nadu's progress lending a hand I am fully confident that the ambitious Vision will be achieved and Tamil Nadu will be the first State to provide its people high quality infrastructure and the means to earn their livelihood and lead contented lives fulfilling all their aspirations.

Thank You

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"Tamil Nadu is my family.
The people of Tamil Nadu are my children.
Their welfare is my welfare."

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa

Inspiring Speeches of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchithalaivi Amma - III